

Omanis play gracious hosts to visiting Israeli delegation

LIAT COLLINS

MUSCAT, OMAN

OMANI officials at Muscat's Seeb Airport seemed more surprised by the size of the delegation which descended from the Egyptian ZAS airplane Friday than by the fact that this is the first official visit by Israelis to a Gulf country.

The 44-member Israeli party, including journalists, is by far the largest of the delegations from 37 countries participating in the multilateral talks on water scheduled to begin here this morning.

It also has the highest level of representatives, with deputy foreign minister Yossi Beilin heading the diplomatic team and former agriculture minister Avraham Katz-Oz heading the water talks delegation.

"It might be an overly large party," admits Beilin. "but the Omanis are saying *ahlan* (welcome)."

The Israeli invasion did not go unnoticed in a country with a population of 1.5 million and barely

17,000 visitors a year. Yesterday's *Times of Oman* made the visit its front page story. Page two, incidentally, carried balanced coverage of the shelling in the Galilee, with a small sidebar which discussed "freedom activists" in Gaza.

Security is tight at the luxury hotel venue for the talks. Guards wearing plain robes and fancy turbans, some with beepers attached to their dagger belts, patrol the corridors and the beach resort outside.

But the atmosphere is nonetheless relaxed. Police officer Abdulah told journalists "I hope to see you again in Muscat or, *inshallah*, in Jerusalem." It doesn't seem like such a ridiculous idea. Not when the world is small enough for China's former ambassador to Israel

Tang Zheng Qi, who is leading the Chinese delegation to the talks, to bump into old acquaintances in Muscat, and practice his rusty Hebrew.

Russian water expert Michael Schwartz, on the other hand, doesn't know Hebrew at all. He used English and Yiddish to converse with his Israeli counterparts.

Helped by endless cups of black coffee and the relaxed atmosphere induced by the burning incense in the lobby, delegates recalled various stories and recycled old jokes together with new ideas.

A guided tour of Muscat for the participants sounded like a party of multilingual schoolchildren on an outing. And it was easy to see why the visitors were excited. Muscat looks like a Hollywood set for an Arabian movie, located in

mountains similar to those of Eilat. All the buildings and roads are new and clean, built under the rule of Sultan Qaboos, who deposed his father in 1970 and brought modernity to the Gulf state.

The mosques have blue and green domes, exquisite gold filigree decorations and a clock in the minaret, like a European church tower. The men - and few women - seen in the streets nearly all wear traditional robes. They find it hard to believe there are Israelis in their capital.

"Show me your passport," insisted a taxi driver. "From Israel, are you kidding?" asked a shopkeeper. Only five-year-old Halima asked "Israel, where's that?"

Hamad, the Information Ministry guide, has decided that the size of the Israeli party is a sign of things to come. He's practicing the Hebrew for "please," "thank you," "let's go," and "you're very beautiful."

Israel-PLO economic talks near conclusion

JOSE ROSENFELD

PALESTINIANS in the autonomous areas will be able to sell gasoline for 15 percent less than the price in Israel as part of the economic agreement between Israel and the Palestinians.

Finance Minister Avraham Shohat said Friday the agreement could be concluded at the end of this week's round of discussions in Paris, as the sides have already reached agreement on most of the issues on the table.

At a news conference called to report on the progress reached in the last round of talks, which concluded last Tuesday, Shohat denied that the closure of the territories was designed to put pressure on the Palestinians at the negotiating table.

However, he admitted that the closure created tension last week with the Palestinian delegation, which, in reaction, deferred negotiations on labor issues.

Shohat reported that the sides have reached final agreement on agriculture, energy and industry. The sides have also reached a conditional agreement on taxation, which will be finalized when they agree on a Value Added Tax (VAT) rate for the autonomous areas. Shohat added that there is still disagreement on the creation of a Palestinian currency, which Israel opposes.

Budget Director David Brodet said that the energy agreement which allows the Palestinians to sell gasoline for 15 percent less than the price in Israel may increase the competition in Israel. However, the Palestinians re-

ceived this concession from the Israelis based on commitments by oil-producing countries to provide them with below price crude oil.

The energy agreement, like the industry agreement, sets the industrial, safety and ecological standards on the respective products covered. Unlike the industry agreement, the energy agreement sets the standards for all the petrochemicals entering the autonomous areas. By contrast, the industry agreement only sets standards for products that will enter Israel from the areas. Industrial products remaining in the areas will not need to conform with those standards.

The agriculture agreement also allows for free trade between the autonomous areas and Israel, with the exception of tomatoes, cucumbers, eggs, potatoes and chickens, said Brodet. Those products will be subject to quotas which will be gradually phased out over a four-year period.

Shohat said that discussions on labor relations will take place this week. He added that both sides benefit from Palestinian labor in Israel, and that Israel will impose neither a ceiling nor a floor for Palestinian labor and will retain the right to control the workers' entry into the country.

Shohat also said that three-quarters of the income tax collected from Palestinians working in Israel will be forwarded to the autonomous authorities since they

will provide the workers with services.

The only remaining bone of contention on taxation is the rate of VAT in the autonomous areas. Shohat reported that the Palestinians want a VAT of between 15 percent and 16 percent, while Israel wants it between 16 percent and 17 percent.

The sides have agreed to impose the same duties, with exceptions for equipment essential for development of the autonomous areas and limited imports from Arab countries. The Palestinians will be able to impose whatever income tax rates they want.

Shohat said that although the economic agreement could be concluded this week, the Palestinians will only move based on the progress achieved in the political talks in Cairo. He added that there are no impediments on Israel's side to sign the economic agreement before the political agreement.

If the economic agreement is ready before, only the issue of coordinating the imposition of duties at Palestinian points of entry will be required, Shohat said.

Shohat rejected the notion that the closure is being used as a means to put pressure on the Palestinian negotiators. As proof, he pointed to the NIS 28 million the government is spending in the territories to fund public works during the closure.

"The closure decision is a decision that derives exclusively from security considerations, despite the fact that even with the closure terrorist acts occur," said Shohat.

Hamas says it will hit Israeli targets worldwide

HAMAS said yesterday it would strike Israeli and Jewish targets worldwide if Israel attacked its leaders or offices abroad.

"If the Israeli government seeks to widen the circle of conflict and decides to hit Hamas personalities or political and media offices abroad, the Qassam brigades will consider this a start of a new war in which Israeli blood and interests and Jewish communities around the world are open for our strikes. We will respond to every attack by a stronger one," the statement said.

In its statement, Hamas added: "Qassam brigades have been committed to carry out their operations inside the Palestinian occupied lands and their leadership have kept to this plan."

"The government of Israel realizes more than anyone that the Islamic Resistance Movement has strong and long arms all over the world and we so far have been committed to the rules of the game in the battle arena. But if the Israeli government wants to break the game's rules then the Jewish people and government will be the first to pay for it and they will be the first to have their faces slapped." (Reuters)

BEILIN

(Continued from Page 1) to occupy their lands?" the Syrian government daily *Tishreen* said.

Iran's state-run radio said: "It is amazing that countries without diplomatic relations with the Zionist regime are welcoming these occupiers whose hands are drenched with the blood of innocent Palestinians."

The head of Israel's water-talks delegation, Avraham Katz-Oz, said this round of talks will focus on issues such as carrying out regional hydrological surveys, establishing a data bank for hydrological information, and water management techniques. Israel will present models for desalination plants powered by solar energy and projects suitable for small communities in Gaza and the territories.

Beilin, meanwhile, told Army Radio yesterday that Israel opposes the Palestinians' intentions to try to set up an independent water system, which is not in accordance with the Oslo accords.

"We will have to hear exactly what they want to suggest in this regard," he said, noting that within the Oslo framework, the Palestinians have a limited mandate with regard to water. "If [what they suggest] is within the Oslo framework then we won't have a problem, but if it is related to something other than the Oslo accords, then we will oppose it," Beilin said.



King Hussein announces yesterday that Hamas is illegal in Jordan, and denied that the government cooperated with them. (AP)

JORDAN

(Continued from Page 1) Jordanian officials said Hussein was trying to deflect growing Israeli and PLO pressure on Jordan. PLO leader Yasser Arafat has often asked the king to clamp down on Hamas.

Officials say they had been alarmed by a spate of fiery media statements by Hamas representative Mohammed Nazzal and spokesman Ibrahim Ghosheh. Both are Jordanian citizens and have an office in Amman.

Hussein refused to say whether Jordan would take action against Nazzal and Ghosheh.

Speaking after Hussein's news conference, Ghosheh said his role in Jordan was limited to media-propaganda and he did not plan attacks on Israel.

"Our role is an information and a political one... mainly to highlight the strategy and positions of Hamas," he said.

"It is a role we have been exercising for over 3½ years since Hamas began intensifying its role," he said.

Ghosheh denied Rabin's allegations that there was direct contact between the Hamas office in Jordan and militants carrying out attacks against Israel.

"We are only promoting Hamas here without any logistical aid in planning operations in the Israeli occupied territories."

"It is known to everyone, including Rabin, that Hamas' military leadership and the one that takes on the task of resisting the Zionists and planning all operations is inside occupied Palestine."

Ghosheh said he and Nazzal, as Jordanian citizens of Palestinian origin, abide by Jordanian laws. Nazzal says his Amman office is a research and documentation center.

Ghosheh said Hamas had not been informed of any move the Jordanian government might take against them.

Hamas sources said the group had information that Israel planned to assassinate some of its leaders in Jordan. Hamas said yesterday it would strike Israeli and Jewish targets worldwide if Israel attacked its leaders or offices abroad.

Hussein said Jordan condemned all forms of terrorism and would not allow inter-Palestinian feuds in the territories to spill over into the kingdom, many of whose four million people are of Palestinian origin.

PLO to insist in Cairo talks today on release of Hamas prisoners

CAIRO (Reuters) - The PLO will insist during the talks on implementing the Gaza/Jericho plan, which resume today, that Israel release Hamas prisoners held for political offenses.

Israel has until now refused to release members of groups publicly opposed to the peace process.

But a number of Palestinian deportees will be permitted to return to the territories this week, a spokesman for Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin confirmed Friday.

Oded Ben-Ami said Israel agreed to the step during last week's talks with the PLO in Cairo. "There was agreement to allow some deportees to return, and some of them can return [this week]," Ben-Ami said.

Ben-Ami would not say how many exiles would return, and declined to comment on an Israeli Radio report that 30 deportees and 17 wanted men who had fled the territories would be coming back.

He insisted, however, that none of those slated to return had murdered Jews or Palestinians.

The release of prisoners remains one of the sticking points in the talks. "We will continue to negotiate the release of all Palestinian prisoners, including all Palestinian shades of opinion," chief Palestinian negotiator Nabil Sha'ath said.

"As much as we regret the incidents in Afula and Hadera... this should not be in any way an excuse for maintaining the bondage and imprisonment of hun-

dreds of Palestinians who have committed absolutely no security offense and who are in Israeli jails because of political resistance to an illegal occupation," he added.

PLO officials say they want Hamas people released to win the sympathy of opponents of the agreement by showing that the peace talks are part of a national, not factional, process. "Peace should be concluded between the Palestinian and Israeli people and not only between Fatah and the Israeli Labor party," Sha'ath said. Sha'ath argued that many Hamas members are in jail for non-violent political acts such as distributing leaflets, putting up banners and taking part in demonstrations.

At the end of the last round of talks, which ended in Cairo last Tuesday, Israel agreed to free 5,000 Palestinian prisoners after it signs the autonomy agreement with the PLO.

Chief Israeli negotiator Maj.-Gen. Amnon Shabak said Israel rejects the release of Hamas members. "We are not going to set on to the streets those who declare they are going to kill us," he said.

When talks reconvene today, they will also focus on jurisdiction and on security matters. Sha'ath said. Another PLO official said the jurisdiction issue and the map of Gaza were the two main controversial points before signing.

Sha'ath said civilian issues were almost finished and would take no longer than a day of talks.

'Fatah involved in 37 acts of violence since peace deal'

FATAH has been involved in 37 acts of violence against Israelis - in which five people were killed - since the signing of the Declaration of Principles, the Peace Watch group said in a report.

The non-partisan group said the PLO had violated three of four obligations it undertook in the DOP, including a commitment to end its own terror and to encourage an end to violence by all Palestinians.

Israel has violated a commitment to prevent its civilians from attacking Palestinians, according to the group, which said that in six incidents Israeli civilians had killed 36 Palestinians, including 29 in the Hebron massacre.

Reserve generals demonstrate in favor of peace process

A GROUP of the country's top reserve generals, led by former Tel Aviv mayor Shlomo Lahav, demonstrated in Tel Aviv on Friday in favor of the peace talks, drawing from the banks of support and curses of disdain from passersby.

Thirty-two reserve generals, including former chief of staff Maj.-Gen. (res.) Zvi Tsur and six former commanders of the navy and air force, waved Israeli flags and called on the public to support the peace process, despite the recent wave of terror attacks.

The musical gathering of generals at the corner of Arlosoroff Street and Derech Haifa followed a number of major street demonstrations against the talks with the

PLO.

Prime Minister and Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin, himself a former chief of staff, as well as Foreign Minister Shimon Peres - a former prime minister and defense minister - came to the busy Tel Aviv intersection to shake hands with the demonstrators.

"I think this is a very important demonstration of support by people who are dealing with and dealt with security," said Rabin of the group.

"These people provided the highest level of security. Thanks to them we won all the campaigns, and they see this campaign - as we do - as another campaign for the nation's security," Peres said.

The Tel Aviv Museum of Art deeply mourns the passing of

MARIANNA GRIESSMANN

Hon. President of the British Friends of the Art Museums of Israel
a dedicated friend and member of our Board of Governors
and a devoted benefactor of art in Israel

The directors and staff extend sincere condolences to Walter Griessmann, and to her family and friends.

We sadly announce the passing of

BERT WAGENBERG

in Teaneck, New Jersey on Yom Ha'atzmaut

Wife: Devora
Children: Miriam and Ira Flatow
Daniel and Ellen Wagenberg
Avi and Ora Ganbar
Grandchildren: Omer, Yoav, Shani
Samuel, Anna, Abigail
Jesse, Benjamin

We mourn the death of our beloved husband, father and grand father

HAIM HEINZ DAUS

who passed away on Thursday, April 14.

Mourners:
The Daus, Daoz and Biran Families

The Joint Commission On The American Promenade Deeply mourns the passing of

MORTY DOLINSKY

Chairman of the Appointments Committee

We extend heartfelt condolences to all Morty's family and friends

Senator Orrin G. Hatch
Senator Arlen Specter
Richard M. Nixon

With deep sadness we announce the passing of our husband, father, brother, grandfather

MORDECHAI (Morty) DOLINSKY

Former leader Betar USA

The funeral service will be held on Sunday 3 p.m. from Sanhedria funeral parlor. Burial on Har Hazeitim Cemetery

The Dolinsky, Levi and Kalb Families.

Shiva at 23 Habad St., O.C., Jerusalem.

To Gloria and the children
We extend our deepest sympathies on the untimely passing of

MORDECHAI DOLINSKY

Irish and Mordechai Kreiner

To Gloria and the family
Condolences on the untimely passing of

MORDECHAI DOLINSKY

Former Natsiv of Betar USA

US Betar Family

CPI

(Continued from Page 1) last month's CPI rise. The bureau's bimonthly housing survey for the first two months of the year showed a 9.8% jump in housing prices compared to the last quarter of 1993.

Rahamim Ozama, head of the Central Bureau of Statistics' price division, said that the jump reflected the bureau's transition from a quarterly housing survey to a bimonthly survey.

Fruit and vegetable prices jumped 5%. According to Katz, this unusual rise was attributable to the fact that most of Pessah fell in March. Fruit and vegetable prices usually rise in April.

The cost of a standard basket of goods and services for the average urban family rose to NIS 5,676, including housing, compared to NIS 5,620, in February. Excluding housing, the basket cost NIS 4,415, compared to NIS 4,385.

March's rise brought the index to 107.0 points on a baseline averaging 100 in 1993, from 105.9 in February.

Despite last month's relatively high index, Katz believes that underlying inflation is much lower. "The government will reach or come close to its goal of 8% inflation this year," he said. Though he expects a high index in April, Katz expects low indexes during the summer.

MEY-EZOR-DAN
Agricultural Cooperative Water Society Ltd.

Tender 413/M.E.D./92

Supply and Erection of Rotor Aerators for Soreq Biological Plant - Phase B
Mey-Ezor-Dan Agricultural Cooperative Water Society Ltd. invites contractors to submit bids for The Supply and Erection of Rotor Aerators (413/M.E.D./92)

The tender documents and forms of tender can be obtained between 8 a.m. and 2 p.m., against payment of NIS 1,500 (non-refundable) at the Mey-Ezor-Dan offices, 24 Nahalat Benyamin Street, Tel Aviv, Tel. 03-5177144.

Bids should be submitted in two copies on the forms provided, and in compliance with the conditions of the tender. Bids, accompanied by a bank guarantee for US\$ 150,000 or the equivalent in New Israeli Shekels, as stated in the tender instructions, and valid for 120 days from the last day for submitting bids, must be placed in the tenders box not later than May 24, 1994, at 12 noon. Bids should not be sent by mail.

The envelope containing the bid should be marked: Mey-Ezor-Dan Agricultural Cooperative Water Society Ltd., Tender 413/M.E.D./92.

Bids arriving after the closing time as mentioned, and bids submitted without the bank guarantee will not be considered. Bids may be submitted by manufacturers with qualifications and specialized experience, as specified in the tender documents.

A pre-tender meeting and site visit for bidders will be held on May 4, 1994 at 12 a.m. starting at the Mey-Ezor-Dan offices. No undertaking is given to accept the lowest or any bid, for the tender works or parts thereof.

Ben-Zion Moradov, Chairman
Mey-Ezor-Dan
Agricultural Cooperative Water Society Ltd.

مكتبة من الكتب

Fighting rages for control of Kigali as ceasefire talks begin

News agencies

NAIROBI

REPRESENTATIVES of the Rwandan army and rebel forces have held their first face-to-face meeting to explore terms for a ceasefire while fighting still raged for control of the capital Kigali, the UN said yesterday.

The UN Assistance Mission in Rwanda (UNAMIR) said officers from the army and the rebel Rwanda Patriotic Front (RPF) met at a secret location after a week of ethnic bloodletting between the majority Hutu and minority Tutsi tribes.

"The meeting was arranged by the UN Secretary-General's special representative Jacques-Roger Booh Booh and held behind closed doors. It explored conditions for a total ceasefire," UNAMIR said in a statement sent to Reuters in Nairobi.

UN peacekeepers meanwhile worked yesterday to airlift food to Kigali, Rwanda's capital, hoping to feed tens of thousands hiding from the bloodbath that has littered the streets with decaying bodies.

"The first plane could land today," UN spokesman Moutar Gueye said by telephone from Kigali, the capital.

However, Gueye said the mostly unarmed peacekeepers had not yet devised a way to move food through the fighting and past gangs of youths who have looted the city and hacked thousands of people to death with machetes.

He estimated there may still be more than a million people in Kigali and the surrounding area.

Clashes eased overnight between the Hutu-dominated army and the mostly Tutsi rebels, but there were brief firefights and both sides fired mortars on the city sporadically.

Marauding gangs armed with machetes, knives, axes - sometimes with automatic weapons and rocket-propelled grenades - kept up a reign of terror.

The stench of death hung over the city where tens of thousands of people are estimated to have been killed in a bloodbath rooted in a decades-old feud between the majority Hutu and minority Tutsi ethnic group.

New reports of massacres emerged Friday, including an account of nearly 1,200 men, women and children shot and hacked to death in a church where they sought refuge.

Thousands of people were still trying to flee Kigali, and thousands more remained in hiding with little or no food.

At least 12,000 people were under UN protection at Kigali's national stadium and at the main King Faisal Hospital. But UN



Belgian paratroopers monitor Rwanda Patriotic Front rebels advancing on Kigali Airport after they received incoming mortar fire. (AP)

spokesman Gueye said the lightly armed peacekeepers did not have the resources to cope with the refugees.

The continuing massacres show there is no safe refuge for the people fleeing the ethnic slaughter.

Belgian news media reported that nearly 1,200 Tutsis, more than half of them children, were massacred Wednesday at a church in Musha, 40 km east of Kigali. It was the largest massacre so far in the fighting.

Radio Vlaanderen International in Belgium and reporters in Kigali for the Belgian newspapers *Het Volk* and *De Morgen* said the Hutu-dominated presidential guard was being blamed for the massacre.

"At 6:30 Wednesday morning,

they suddenly came into our church. They kicked in the door and immediately opened fire with semi-automatic weapons and threw grenades," the pastor, Danko Litrick, told *Het Volk*.

"Afterwards, they attacked the defenseless people with knives, bats and spears. Only a few could have survived this massacre. There were 1,180 bodies in my church, including 650 children," he said.

In a separate massacre, Polish missionaries said they could hear the slashing of machetes and screams and calls for help when marauders killed about 80 Tutsis at a Roman Catholic church in Kigali last Saturday.

A gang returned Tuesday and began searching the parish

grounds for survivors. Since they could not get into the chapel, they set it ablaze, killing a dozen more people, including two mothers with two young children, the missionaries said.

The UN made no decision on the future of the 2,500-strong UNAMIR, set up last year to help implement a peace pact signed last August in Tanzania aimed at ending a three-year civil war.

Belgium said it was withdrawing its 420-strong force from the UN team and said peacekeepers should leave Rwanda because of the "brutal rupture" in the peace and democracy process.

Ten Belgian UN peacekeepers were among the thousands of people butchered in a week of slaughter in Rwanda.

New world trade body has no agenda, home or boss

ANALYSIS

CLARE NULLIS

WITH the signing of the GATT agreement in Morocco on Friday, the world has a new set of trade rules - on paper. But the new policing organization that is supposed to usher in a brave new world of trade has a muddled mandate, no definite home and probably no leading light.

As more than 100 countries signed the Uruguay Round accords in a ceremonial chamber and received a royal blessing from Moroccan monarch, King Hassan II, a touch of cold realism blew through this balmy North African oasis.

The European Union trade chief, Sir Leon Brittan, said the new set of trade rules heralds an end to the "law of the jungle."

US Trade Representative Mickey Kantor forsook the formal handshake for an emphatic embrace with the head of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, Peter Sutherland, during the signing ceremony.

And Sutherland himself, a former Irish attorney-general, said he felt like dancing one of his native jigs on the flower-decked tables.

But Sutherland tempered his elation with a warning.

"If the World Trade Organization doesn't acquire a credibility, through being able to deal with trade problems, and to acquire an authority, then we will have failed," Sutherland said.

The WTO is meant to start life next Jan. 1 to implement the Uruguay Round accords, which are expected to boost global income by more than \$200 billion in the next ten years.

It is meant to have much tougher and wider powers to police the international trading system than GATT, which was set up in 1947 as a temporary arrangement.

But there are fears that the WTO may become yet another toothless talking shop.

The agenda for the preparatory committee meant to lay the foundations for the WTO reads like a guide to the world's woes.

It includes the relationship between the trading system and internationally recognized labor stan-

dards; immigration policies; competition policy; political stability and the alleviation of poverty; and unilateral measures like the US imposing trade sanctions against unfair traders.

The preparatory committee is meant to screen out irrelevant items from the WTO's mandate. But it will be a tough task if governments are intent on pushing their pet projects.

The floodgates were opened by the US and France, which insisted that workers' rights be firmly on the WTO agenda. Developing countries, fearing that labor standards may be used as a guise to keep out cheap labor imports, then put forward their own topics.

"The trade agenda will never be concluded," said Sutherland. "Whenever one issue is resolved, other issues will remain on the table and need to be expanded."

Sutherland himself is unlikely to stick around long enough to see that happen even though the United States and most other countries would like him to.

"I do not have a long-term intention of being an international civil servant on trade," he said.

Head of one of Ireland's biggest banks before he was coaxed to GATT's Geneva headquarters, he has often hinted he would like to return to his native country.

If that weren't enough, there has been no decision on where the new WTO will be based.

The overwhelming preference is to take over, and expand, the GATT headquarters on the shore of Lake Geneva. But if Swiss authorities refuse to bow to Sutherland's demands that the WTO should be given VIP treatment, it may be moved elsewhere.

Chilly Stockholm has been mentioned. There will also be lots of office space going in Bonn after parliament moves to Berlin.

And after a week of lavish Moroccan hospitality, many diplomats thought maybe Marrakesh wouldn't be a bad idea either.

The writer is a Geneva-based Associated Press correspondent who has covered the GATT talks since 1989.

Jewish museum reopens in Budapest

BUDAPEST (AP) - Four months after it was nearly emptied by unknown burglars, the Jewish community reopened its museum Friday as part of a series of events marking the 50th anniversary of the Holocaust in Hungary.

Jewish treasures stolen December 12 were valued at 6-8 billion forints (\$60-80 million). The 184 pieces collected since 1916 included articles used by Hungarian Jews to their homes and synagogues, gold and silver religious relics, paintings and carpets.

Gusztav Zoltai, head of the Federation of Jewish parishes in Budapest, told the Budapest Week newspaper that the lost items were of emotional and historic value throughout the world.

They were replaced by items that had not been on display and

pieces donated by private individuals and other museums.

"The fact that we have been able to gather a new collection so fast shows that Jews want to go on living here," said Rabbi Tamas Raj, who spoke at an opening ceremony.

Police have made little progress on the case, but museum director Robert Turan said it still was important to have a museum open in Budapest.

Turan said there had been a steady increase in the number of non-Jewish Hungarians visiting the museum prior to the robbery.

The reopening of the museum is part of a weekend of events marking the 50th anniversary of the first transportation of Hungarian Jews to death camps on April 17.

Ralph Ellison dies at 80

NEW YORK (AP) - Ralph Ellison, 80, whose first-and-only novel *Invisible Man* anticipated much of the Civil Rights era even as its genius proved him a spokesman for all races, died yesterday.

Invisible Man, a rite-of-passage story published in 1952, won the National Book Award. It chronicles an idealistic - and unnamed - young black's disillusionment at the humiliations he suffers in the South and in Harlem, from campus life to street riots.

Ellison started on a second novel, but 20 years later lost most of the manuscript in a fire at his summer home. He was still trying to reconstruct the book as he passed his 80th birthday in 1994.

Two non-fiction collections, *Shadow and Act* (1964) and *Going to the Territory* (1986), rounded out his published work.

Row erupts over Berlusconi's threats of new general election

ROME (Reuters) - A row broke out yesterday over media tycoon Silvio Berlusconi's threats of a new general election as his candidates failed yet again to be voted speakers of parliament's two houses.

Italian President Oscar Luigi Scalfaro branded Berlusconi's remarks as a "grave breach of conduct."

Two more votes yesterday among members of the country's new parliament produced only deadlock in the search for the speakers - without whom no government can be formed. Voting was set to continue last evening.

Scalfaro reacted strongly to Berlusconi's threat to go to the country again if his Alliance failed to win the Senate (upper house) speaker's seat.

"Threatening partial or total dissolution of parliament constitutes a grave breach of conduct," his office said.

"It is an unjust pressure on parliamentarians' liberty to vote and disregards the popular will that has

just been expressed," the statement added.

Berlusconi's Freedom Alliance, which won March general elections, failed in its third bid yesterday to get its candidate elected as Senate speaker.

Economist Carlo Scognamiglio won 159 votes - the same as his main rival, outgoing Senate speaker Giovanni Spadolini. A total of 163 votes were needed.

Scalfaro cannot begin consultations to name a prime minister-designate, expected to be Berlusconi, until the Senate and the Chamber of Deputies have elected their speakers.

Berlusconi has insisted his alliance needs a mandate to govern from both houses.

"A government cannot govern if its policies are not accepted in both chambers," he said.

"If that happened, there would be no solution but to go back to the electorate with a majority that would be confirmed and strengthened by the experience."

Hillary Clinton says living in White House 'pretty positive'

WASHINGTON (AP) - Hillary Rodham Clinton compares life in the White House to "living above the store," and says the close proximity to her husband and daughter has helped her cope with the Whitewater controversy.

She relishes the opportunity to spend more time with President Clinton.

"We talk all the time, we watch old trashy movies on TV, we just have a lot of fun together," Mrs. Clinton said in an interview in the May issue of *Elle* magazine.

"Since it's like living above the store, we get to see each other a lot during the day. He does not have to be gone away from home," she said. "We can have dinner nearly every night with Chelsea."

"So it's been for us, personally, pretty positive because of the amount of time we spend together," Mrs. Clinton added.

Harder, however, has been coping with the detachment from ordinary life.

"We try to keep pushing the boundaries of what's possible, going shopping and going out to dinner, my husband running along the street, going to church," she said. "These are things we keep doing because we want to stay in touch with what's going on in the so-called real world."

The president and first lady sometimes eat breakfast together. But they avoid morning discussions of the newspapers and stories on the Whitewater saga.

DAVID SHALLON, Conductor

TABEA ZIMMERMANN, Soloist

Avishai Ya'ar "Mosaic" for Orchestra
Paganini Sonata for Viola and Orchestra
Berlioz "Harold in Italy", Symphony with Solo Viola

THE COMPLETE SUBSCRIPTION Concert No. 8

Tuesday, 19.4 Series A • Wednesday, 20.4 Series B

8:00 p.m. Henry Crown Hall

SUBSCRIPTION CONCERT No. 4

Heichal Hatarbut Hainoni, Natanya

Thursday, 21.4, 8:30 p.m.

JANOS FUERST, Conductor

GILEAD MISHORY, Soloist

P. Ben Haim "The Sweet Psalmist of Israel"
Grieg Piano Concerto
Dvorak Symphony No. 5 in F Major

THE POPULAR SUBSCRIPTION Concert No. 5

Tuesday, 26.4 Series D

Wednesday, 27.4 Series E

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Your Gift Search is Over

Simplifying hospital geography to prevent heart complications

JUDY SIEGEL-ITZKOVICH

EVERY cardiologist and cardiothoracic surgeon in the world can tell you of patients he lost in the elevator," said Prof. Jonathan Halevy, director-general of Shaare Zedek Hospital.

He was not, of course, referring to doctors' absentmindedness, but to the fact that the farther a critically ill heart patient has to be transported during treatment from one part of a hospital to the other, the greater the chance he or she may not make it.

On May 26, the Jerusalem hospital will officially open its \$25-million Jesselson Heart Center (JHC) — 6,800 sq. m. of space covering the entire 10th floor, which will encompass prevention, diagnostics, treatment, surgery and rehabilitation of cardiovascular diseases.

Half of the center is already functioning; during the coming weeks the remaining services will move up to the 10th floor from locations in other parts of the building. Halevy, an internist and liver specialist, says the center is "the only one of its kind in the Middle East and one of the few of its kind anywhere."

"Nearly all cardiologist centers in existing hospitals were established years ago and developed haphazardly as medicine advanced," Halevy said, as he led a tour of the new center.

"My colleagues and I toured medical centers throughout the US and Europe while we were planning our center more than two years ago, and we found nothing as comprehensive as this."

About half of one percent of patients who undergo angioplasty (catheterization) of the heart suddenly develop complications and

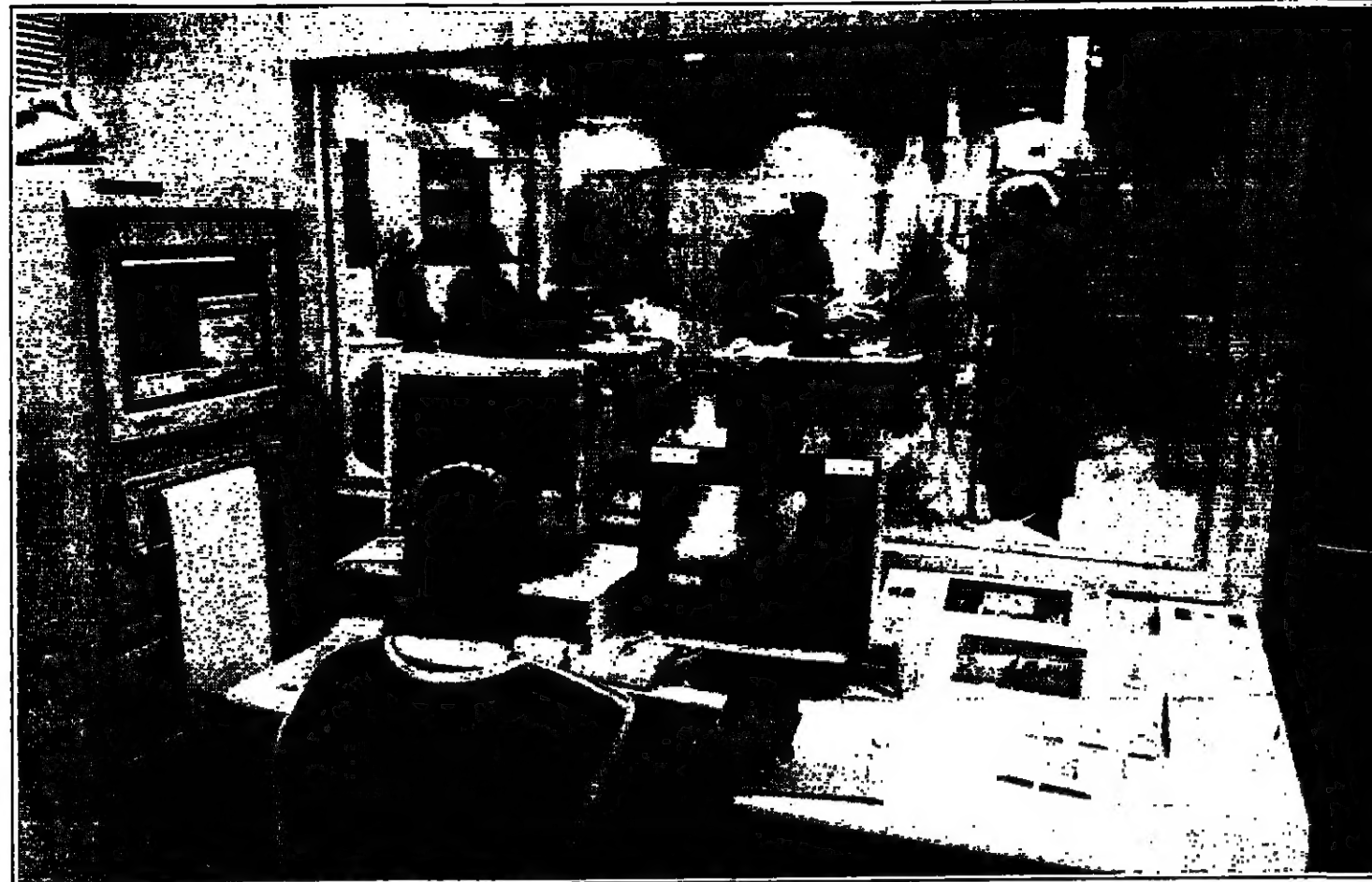
have to undergo emergency surgery. In most cases, the angioplasty room is on a different floor — or at least in a different wing — from the operating theater, and the medical staff have to rush the patient — complete with monitors and other equipment — a significant distance. This can mean a waste of precious minutes.

In the JHC, two operating theaters equipped with state-of-the-art technology and used only for heart-surgery patients are a couple of meters away from the angioplasty room. All staffers who work with heart patients are on the floor throughout the day and evening, so there is no delay in locating them.

The JHC, funded totally by private donations, is being named for the late New York philanthropist and businessman Ludwig Jesselson, who died a year ago. His widow, Erica, is head of the hospital's New York committee. There were about a dozen other major donors and hundreds who contributed smaller sums.

The center, with its central atrium and spectacular views is tasteful, even luxurious. The cardiology department, headed by Prof. Dan Tzivoni, covers a major section of the floor. The 51-year-old cardiologist spent two years as a research fellow at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center in Los Angeles and is the winner of numerous awards. The department has 30 regular beds and 12 intensive-care beds.

ON THE opposite side of the atrium is the cardiothoracic surgery department, directed by Prof. Dani Bitran. This department, also with 30 regular beds and 12 intensive-care beds, fulfills the



State-of-the-art angioplasty labs are part of the new Jesselson Heart Center at Shaare Zedek Hospital in Jerusalem.

dream of Prof. Jack Matloff of Cedars-Sinai, who advised Shaare Zedek officials in the planning of the floor. The department has been named for his late parents.

The department suffered a wrenching change at the top when its previous director of cardiothoracic surgery, Prof. Gideon Merin, suddenly announced more than a year ago that he was leaving to

head the corresponding department at Hadassah-University Hospital in Ein Karem, less than a year after he joined Shaare Zedek.

Within weeks, Halevy found the Israeli-born Bitran, who had spent eight years at Harvard Medical School, Brigham and Women's Hospital and the University of Massachusetts Medical Center

in Boston. Since Bitran's arrival, the number of open-heart operations at Shaare Zedek has surged, and it is expected to double in the near future to 1,000 a year.

Another new staffer is Dr. Yaron Almogor, who is responsible for the two angioplasty labs, which cost \$2.4 million to build and equip. Not only will traditional

balloon therapy be used to unclog fatty plaque on the inside of coronary arteries, but additional techniques, such as the rotoblator and lasers, will also be used. Although lasers have proved less of a comprehensive solution to clogged arteries than originally anticipated, the rotoblator drill (which works like the mechanical device that cleans clogged sewage

pipes) is very promising.

Almogor spent four years in the US and three in Milan doing these special procedures, which are expensive (each balloon catheter costs \$1,500) but can eliminate the need for cardiac surgery. The number of angioplasties is expected to jump soon to 1,800 a year. Halevy notes that in 1991, the number was 320; in 1992 it was 1,000 and last year it was 1,500.

More than 1 million Israelis — one out of five — suffer from cardiovascular diseases. Nearly half of the deaths in this country are directly attributable to heart disease, significantly more than from cancer. About a quarter of all heart-surgery patients at Shaare Zedek in 1993 were immigrants from the CIS, who have often had poor medical care before their immigration, eat a fat-laden diet and smoke heavily.

Preventing heart disease will be an integral part of the center's mission. The JHC will offer courses to help patients stop smoking; videocassettes and educational programs on diet, exercise and healthful life-styles will also be offered.

The JHC will also offer physical and emotional rehabilitation for patients. "There has been no such facility in Jerusalem," Halevy says.

"Patients who wanted to undergo supervised exercise and healthful living courses had to travel to Procaccia in Tel Aviv." Patients will be able to use the rehabilitation center for a year following their heart attack or cardiac surgery.

Dr. Avi Yisraeli, associate director-general of the Hadassah Medical Organization, says, "Hadassah welcomes any activity that improves the health of Israelis, and especially of Jerusalemites."

Yad Sarah's Israel Prize a tribute to 'human concern and love'

POST HEALTH REPORTER

IF recipients of the prestigious Israel Prize were elected by the public instead of chosen by a government-appointed committee, Yad Sarah would undoubtedly be chosen.

In fact, Yad Sarah was nominated by the committee and approved by the Ministry of Science and the Arts. On Independence Day last week, founder Rabbi Uri Lupoliansky and chairman of the presidium Prof. Kalman Mann received the prize from the country's leaders at a ceremony in the Jerusalem Theater.

In a country like Israel, where everybody seems to enjoy saying something bad about somebody, no one seems to have anything bad to say about Yad Sarah. Run by 4,000 volunteers and only 35 paid staffers through 70 branches from Kiryat Shmona to Eilat, it provides free services to 200,000 families around the country each year, saving the public health system some NIS 250 million by following the elderly, sick and disabled to function at home instead of being hospitalized.

"I was surprised and very moved," says Lupoliansky, a former teacher, father of 12 and today a deputy mayor (representing Degel HaTorah) of Jerusalem. Barely past 40, he adds with a smile: "My being there cut the average age of Israel Prize recipients by half. But in fact, while the prize is for a 'Life's Work,' the prize is not mine. It belongs to the thousands of volunteers who give of their heart and soul to help others."

Seventeen years ago, in an act that has become almost legendary, Lupoliansky lent a vaporizer to a neighbor whose child had trouble breathing. In those days, such electric gadgets were hard to come by and expensive. After neighbors heard of the loan, they too asked to borrow the device.

Lupoliansky quickly realized that there was a great need for free loans of medical equipment. When his father, Ya'acov, offered him a considerable sum of money for charity in memory of his mother who died in the Holocaust, Uri decided to set up a free loan fund of simple medical devices, from vaporizers and wheelchairs to oxygen tanks and walkers.

Government ministries were pleased by the reduced financial burden on their resources,

but they have consistently declined to give regular allocations. "We've despaired of getting government subsidies," Lupoliansky says. "So we have to depend on our volunteers and private donations."

THIS TEAMWORK has succeeded, as Yad Sarah now lends 272 different types of equipment, a total of 236,000 items. While walkers and vaporizers are still on the list, many high-tech devices have been added, including electronic monitors to warn when a sleep-apnea-prone infant has stopped breathing.

Although equipment loan remains the backbone of Yad Sarah's services, it has gradually added many new ones according to the needs of those who need them.

"In a bureaucracy, when a need is discovered, officials hope responsibility does not come under their aegis, because it means headaches. But when volunteers find distress and suggest a solution, they put their heart and soul into finding an answer," Lupoliansky says.

Thus, Yad Sarah expanded with new services, including a laundry service for the bed-ridden and incontinent; the Nechomit van for transporting the disabled cheaply to doctors, shopping or visits to relatives; emergency beepers for those who live alone; round-the-clock oxygen supplies; hot meals on wheels; home visits; a dental clinic for the elderly; a coffeehouse for old people to eat in and be entertained; a grandpa/grandma sitting service; and a day-care center for the severely disabled. It also introduced a small home-repair service in Jerusalem, with volunteers putting up shelves, changing lightbulbs, installing peepholes and door security chains and unclogging drains for elderly people unable to fend for themselves.

Aware of the fact that most of their wheelchairs and walkers were imported and very expensive, Yad Sarah established a workshop and hired middle-aged immigrants to assemble imported parts. Not only did this reduce the cost of equipment, but it also provided a decent wage for otherwise unemployable new immigrants.

A group of prisoners have recently been



File photo shows Knesset members packing Yad Sarah bags with pajamas and linens. (Isaac Harari)

trained to repair broken medical equipment so they can return to the loan system. In addition, Yad Sarah volunteers have been trained to give emotional support to patients who just discovered they have cancer.

As for the future, Lupoliansky looks forward to the end of 1995, when Yad Sarah will bring together its many services in Jerusalem and establish its national headquarters in a building to be constructed near Mt. Herzl. No government funds have been promised, but the land was donated by the Israel Lands Administration.

"The first stage will cost \$7.2 million, and the second stage an equal sum. Unfortunately, we own none of our present premises and have no property to sell," the deputy mayor laments.

Yad Sarah is unique. "It has been a model to other organizations here and abroad," Lupoliansky says. "The Joint Distribution Committee came to learn how we do things and intends to open Jewish centers in Russia. Representatives from Denmark, South Africa and various parts of the US have done so as well. "They are trying to uncover our secret: how to run an organization like a well-oiled machine, yet have it powered on human concern and love."

Dove 'treatment' for hepatitis A doesn't work, can even be a killer

RX FOR READERS

JUDY SIEGEL-ITZKOVICH

I am an adult male and was recently diagnosed as suffering from hepatitis A. I live in a hard neighborhood where treating hepatitis A with doves is very common. Many people claim it has cured them. A dove of the same sex is pressed on the abdomen of the patient, with its anus over the patient's navel.

The dove dies and the patient is then "better," because "vapors" are absorbed by the bird. My family doctor said he wouldn't recommend it but wouldn't tell me not to do it. Is there any truth to it at all? Y.P., Jerusalem

Prof. Daniel Shouval, head of the liver unit at Hadassah-University Hospital in Jerusalem's Ein Karem, comments:

The use of doves for "treating" hepatitis is very common among the haredi and other traditional communities. In fact, there have been many attempts to smuggle the birds into the hospital for "treating" patients in our wards. We do all we can to prevent it, because birds in a hospital can be dangerous.

The use of doves for this purpose was mentioned in a certain religious book written many years ago; this mention made it religiously known and acceptable to the religious community. I have not heard of its use outside the Jewish community.

Doctors generally do not object to complementary medicine techniques if they are not harmful. But using doves for hepatitis is not necessarily harmless. I know of at least one case of a hepatitis A patient in the north who died four years ago, because relatives insisted on waiting three days for the dove "treatment" before doctors were given permission to treat him.

In addition, if the navel is perforated and comes in direct contact with the bird, the patient may become infected with bacteria from the dove.

When I witnessed such "treatment," it was clear that the "practitioner" choked the bird to death; "vapors" did not kill it. There is positively no medical basis to "treating" hepatitis patients with birds. It's impossible that it has any beneficial effect; it's not even worth conducting a medical study, as the whole idea is absurd, not to mention the cruelty to the animals.

The "entrepreneurs" — or charlatans, if you prefer — who provide this "service" should know that 99 percent of all patients with hepatitis A recover completely without any treatment. So it's not surprising that they claim to have "cured" patients with their birds. If a patient has hepatitis B or C, there are medical treatments that can be offered, so delaying treatment for the doves is foolhardy.

Rabbi Yehoshua Scheinberger, the health expert of the Eda Haredit and head of Rafi, the Medicine According to Halacha organization, adds:

I don't encourage people to undergo dove "treatment" for hepatitis. Not only is it ineffective, but it also violates the principle prohibiting cruelty to animals.

Since my father-in-law suffered a stroke at age 73 on the left side of his brain, leaving him able to walk (with difficulty) but unable to speak, his normal sleep patterns have been disrupted. He seems

never to sleep more than a couple of hours at a stretch. He seems afraid of the dark and insists lights be on at night.

We were told that sleeping pills would adversely affect his overall functioning. What is the connection between the stroke and the sleep disorder? Can anything be done about it? H.E., Jerusalem

A physician, who prefers to be nameless, from the department of neurology at Jerusalem's Shaare Zedek Hospital replies:

There is not necessarily a connection between the stroke and the sleep disorder. There are many reasons for an abnormal sleep pattern and difficulty in sleeping at night.

The problem could be related to changes in habits, behavior and mood. Serious illness, including a stroke, can cause many changes in a person. He should be seen by his doctor for further assessment.

Quite often, sleep abnormalities and changes of behavior are linked to depression, which is treatable. There also is the possibility of a pain syndrome.

A good family physician should be able to evaluate the reasons for the sleep disorder and, after in-depth assessment, solve the problem.

Rx For Readers welcomes queries from readers about medical problems. Experts will answer those we find most interesting, and replies will be printed in the twice-monthly column on the Health Page.

Write Rx For Readers, c/o Judy Siegel-Itzkovich, The Jerusalem Post, P.O. Box 81, Jerusalem 91000, or fax 02-389527, giving your initials, age and place of residence. Phoned-in queries will not be accepted.

Button batteries are a dangerous temptation for children

HEALTH SCAN

POST HEALTH REPORTER

TINY button (disc) batteries, which power numerous gadgets from watches and calculators to hearing aids and toys, can be poisonous to children if swallowed, doctors warn.

Enclosed in steel and ranging in size from a diameter of 6.8 to 23 millimeters, the batteries contain alkaline electrolytes. If they remain whole, without leaking into the stomach or intestines, they usually cause no trouble and pass out of the body.

However, Drs. R.M. Rothschild and Aharon Lerner of Carmel Hospital's pediatrics and gastroenterology departments write in the latest issue of *Harefuah*, the journal of the Israel Medical Association, that if the batteries leak, they can cause damage and perhaps even poison the victim.

Even if they remain whole, the batteries may occasionally get stuck or cause a rip in the esophagus or the rest of the gastrointestinal system.

The first suspicious symptoms include vomiting, refusal to eat or drink and excess salivation. A hole in the esophagus usually shows up as high fever, slowed pulse and breathing and a blue tinge on the skin.

In most cases, doctors take a wait-and-see attitude. If an X-ray shows it is stuck, the battery can be pulled out using an endoscope, sometimes with a magnet at the end. In a small number of cases, surgery is required to remove it.

Parents should report the size and type of battery to the emergency-room doctors.

In some countries, stores request the spent button batteries before selling customers a new one. This not only ensures environmentally safe disposal, but also keeps used batteries out of children's hands. This would be a good proposal for adoption here, the authors say.

Young children are especially attracted by the shiny, round batteries. In the US alone, 2,100 such swallowing accidents were reported last year; the incidence increases by 25 percent each year, due to the increased use of button batteries.

There are no updated official statistics in Israel, but researchers documented 44 reported cases in 1985. In 90 percent of cases in a foreign study, the battery emerged from the rectum within a day or two, leaving the patient unscathed.

DIABETIC FOOT FIRST Doctors from four different specialties — plastic surgery, endocrinology, vascular surgery and orthopedics — are manning the new outpatient diabetic foot clinic, which has opened at Jerusalem's Shaare Zedek Hospital.

The unusual interdisciplinary approach aims at treating complications of diabetes that affect the feet. The foot is one of the most affected parts of the body in a

diabetic, because blood vessels weaken and the blood supply to the extremity may be very poor. Since nerve function also deteriorates, patients may be unaware of infections and even corns from ill-fitting shoes; neglect can result in gangrene and the need for amputating the limb.

At the clinic, which is open at the hospital Mondays at 11 a.m., senior doctors from the four specialties each examine the patient. The staff will teach patients to wear soft, comfortable shoes and examine their feet regularly.

Growth factor, extracted from the patient's own thrombocytes, may also be used to improve the healing of wounds.

END TO HEMOPHILIA?

There is hope for a cure for hemophilia by the end of this decade.

The World Health Organization (WHO) has predicted that speedy advances in genetic technology will cure the disease, whose victims' blood-clotting mechanism is faulty.

The WHO says that promising research into gene therapy for hemophiliacs could also help victims of other hereditary diseases, including cystic fibrosis (CF). About one in 10,000 males are

born with the defective gene for hemophilia; few women are affected. A hemophiliac who gets a bad cut may bleed to death unless he quickly gets a transfusion of clotting factor.

In gene therapy, a normal gene is inserted to replace the defective one. The US is leading in this field of research.

LAPAROSCOPY FOR STRESS INCONTINENCE

Laparoscopy has been adapted for surgically treating women suffering from stress incontinence — that embarrassing condition in which urine "escapes" when they cough, sneeze or haven't reached the toilet on time.

The condition, which appears in a fifth of women aged 35 to 65, is caused by age, many births or a hormone abnormality.

Dr. Alex Condrea of the gynecology department at Haifa's Bnai Zion Hospital reported on the technique at a recent international congress in Eilat.

A tube containing a tiny video camera is inserted into the lower abdomen. While watching the scene on TV, surgeons are able to raise the bladder and attach it to the bones of the pelvis.

Patients need be hospitalized for only two to five days, and the surgery is considered minor; until now, a major abdominal operation was required. Condrea has been invited to numerous gynecology departments around the coun-

try to demonstrate the technique.

THE INDIRECT WAY

A US plastic surgeon has found a new way to insert breast implants without scarring, by cutting inside the belly button and fashioning a "tunnel" under the skin to the mammary glands.

Dr. Gerald Johnson, a Houston plastic surgeon, devised the technique and has applied for a patent on it.

Many doctors are not convinced the benefits overcome the risks. Dr. John Bostwick, head of plastic surgery at Georgia's Emory University, has tried the technique and says he prefers conventional incisions.

These can be hidden in the fold of the breast, nipple or armpit and allow more accurate placement. Other critics say the technique may make it harder to detect breast cancer using a mammogram.

The technique, called trans-umbilical breast augmentation (TUBA), uses a hollow metal rod called an endotube to tunnel under the skin. By inserting a tiny fiber-optic camera called an endoscope, the surgeon can see what is happening inside the breast.

An inflatable pouch is inserted to "make room" and then deflated and removed. The prosthesis is positioned in the breast and filled with salt water through a tiny hose. Then the hose is removed and the implant seals itself.

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Invitation to Oman

IN its relations with Israel, Oman has always been different from other Arab states. It has sometimes avoided voting for anti-Israel UN resolutions and, like Morocco, nurtured off-the-record contacts with Israel. Now running out of oil, and concerned about its sources of income, it is eager to establish itself as a tourist mecca, for which it needs international goodwill and approval. It is, then, not too surprising that it has become the first Gulf state to invite an Israeli delegation to participate in an international conference on regional water problems in its capital.

True, the invitation is not quite as "normal" as the invitations extended the other 43 conference participants. The Israeli representatives, headed by Deputy Foreign Minister Yossi Beilin, were not permitted to arrive on a direct flight from Israel, nor could Israeli reporters use a satellite hookup connected directly to Israel. More significantly, while the local English-language newspaper reported Israel's participation, the papers in Arabic - read by the majority of the emirate's population - made no mention of it.

Yet one should not underestimate the importance of an official Israeli presence in a Persian Gulf capital. The very fact that Syria - which despite its supposedly more conciliatory mood has boycotted the conference (and forced its satellite Lebanon to do the same) - has bitterly attacked Oman for inviting Israel is a measure of the invitation's importance. Syria's ally Iran, too, has excoriated the Omanis for this precedent-shattering move. That the Saudis and the other Gulf emirates are nevertheless among the participants is an undeniable sign of progress.

Beilin has said that the meeting may signal the first real breach in the Arab boycott. Since the boycott office seems to cater to the most radical Arab denominator, the chances of it doing anything officially are slim. But the presence of an Israeli delegation in the Gulf will undoubtedly make informal deals more likely. The projected gas pipeline from Qatar is one such example.

All in all, the Omani invitation is an achievement of Israeli diplomacy which should be roundly applauded.

Unmourned Rwanda

UNTIL the United Nations announced the probable withdrawal of its 2,500-strong Assistance Mission for Rwanda (UNAMIR) - sent last October to help implement a peace accord between the government and rebels - few can have been aware of its existence, except perhaps in Belgium. Ten Belgian UN soldiers died trying to protect Rwanda's Prime Minister Agathe Uwilingiyimana as Hutus and Tutsis started to annihilate one another with medieval ferocity.

While it is true the ghastly Rwanda debacle is gaining international coverage, it is not hard to predict that with the evacuation of the Europeans the interest in the tribal bloodshed will wane once more, as in Liberia. US and British television reports last week on scientists bawling the danger to 320 gorillas in the Rwandan mountains - one woman was weeping - can only reinforce many Third World people's worst prejudices about First World priorities. News media rushed in to Kigali to document step-by-step the flight of Belgians, French, Russians and journalists - and even took time out to worry about gorillas - to a backdrop of body-littered streets.

In the stories beamed back to Africa by Western television, radio and news agencies, Europeans have names, life histories, and relatives being interviewed at airports. Even gorillas were filmed and counted. Dead Africans - a ghastly toll numbering tens of thousands of people - seem somehow anonymous by comparison. There is an uncomfortable racist undercurrent in reporting of Third World disasters. It seems to echo the story from the 1940s of a guideline supposedly issued by a British press baron to his foreign editors saying "one dead Englishman equals 10 dead Frenchmen equals 1,000 dead Indians."

For national news it is perfectly correct to

highlight local issues and people - no one would dream of criticizing Belgium's massive coverage Friday for the state funeral of its fallen soldiers. But international news dispatches are a cornerstone of international foreign policy. It is high time, in this era of instant communications, that a disaster of Rwandan proportions should merit an international reporting and aid effort as great as would an earthquake in Italy. Westerners all too often throw up their hands in horror at African or Arab tribalism, before returning to a primitive tribal obsession on the international airwaves about their own citizens and a disregard for the massive toll of victims in a conflict like Rwanda.

This is not to say that African governments have much to be proud of. The Organization of African Unity manages to hit the headlines only for its outlandishly expensive conferences and ritual denunciations of Western and UN "interference" in African affairs. The OAU's invisibility when something actually needs to be done about a Liberia or a Rwanda is a strident damnation of its nonsensical pretensions as the voice of Africa.

Organizations like the OAU raise enthusiastic support for the idea of regional peace-keeping to ease the burden of the overstretched United Nations. Then they sit back and carp from the sidelines at UN failures in Somalia, Mozambique or Rwanda. There is no doubt that black peacekeeping troops should be more acceptable in African conflicts than alien whites from Europe, Canada or America. The question is - where are the brother African mediators? The answer is - buried in OAU filing cabinets full of resolutions worth less than the paper wasted on them, while corpses pile up in the streets of Kigali.



Painful but plain to see

A.M. ROSENTHAL

IN Cairo, Yasser Arafat is asked for comment on the slaughter of the bus passengers in Afula. He turns and walks away.

From Hollywood the same day came another story about Islamic attitudes toward Jewish lives, and Jewish deaths. In Islamic countries around the world *Schindler's List* is being banned, labeled as either obscene, pro-Jewish, anti-German or all three.

Jews, and friends of Jews, who do not pay careful attention to those events make a serious error.

The goal of talks between Arabs and the Labor government is land for peace. And it is already half-achieved. The Arabs are getting the land.

Far in advance of a final peace settlement, the Israelis are committed to turn over Gaza and Jericho to the Palestinians any day now, and proceed to roll themselves out of most of the rest of the West Bank.

The Palestinians will declare an independent state whenever they wish. Most of the world will recognize it. Why not - since by Israel's own agreement, it will already have the attributes of independence: control of land, police power, bureaucratic and legislative jurisdiction, a seat of government in Jericho, functioning until the branch already in East Jerusalem can become headquarters.

For Palestinians, all this is achievement of great moment. From land they rule themselves, they can build a state and make peace its great asset.

Or they can create a launching pad from which they and other Islamic nations can try to conquer all Israel. That is still the

sworn objective of the Palestinian movement, as it is the passion of scores of millions of Islamic fundamentalists around the world.

THE PALESTINIANS' achievement was made possible by their own fortitude and decisions of

Islamic attitudes toward Jewish lives, and Jewish deaths

the Labor government. Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin decided that peace was more important to Israeli life and security than holding the West Bank.

The government then created a "negotiating partner" - the collapsing PLO. Foreign Minister Shimon Peres talks of Yasser Arafat with utmost tenderness. Israel encouraged other governments to give the Palestinians money and other help - the United Jericho Appeal.

The Rabin government is delivering the goal of land to the Palestinians, on credit. But Israel cannot deliver to itself its own goal of peace.

That will depend on whether leaders of Islam - not Israel, not Washington - will try to bring Moslem minds and souls into some harmony with the Jews - or at least the absence of hate.

That is the nub of the great Israeli gamble. It has not hap-

pened, of course. At the White House handshake, Arafat carefully avoided telling the listening Islamic world that he had pledged the end of terrorism.

The Palestinians have not canceled the death-to-Israel oath written into their covenant. The Arab world has not ended the boycott.

Israeli diplomats and a few other Jews are allowed into some Arab countries once closed to them. Israelis say that some Arabs are doing quiet business with Israel.

That's not peace, that's a one-act charade that may fool Jews, but not Moslems. These little graces are often not even revealed to the Moslem people. What they do know is that boycott and Holy War continue, that Jews are murderers, thieves and the enemies of freedom - all taught by Islamic propagandists and clerics from Jericho to Kuala Lumpur.

Islamic leaders have refused to deliver the one contribution - decency of word and conduct toward Israel and Jews - that might transform peace for land from a completely untested theory into reality. The Israeli government has not made this plain to the world.

But Yasser Arafat made it plain enough when he turned away from the murdered Israelis without a single word. And so did the story from Hollywood about the great Holocaust movie being too mean to Germans, too kind to Jews.

The writer is a columnist and former executive editor of The New York Times.

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Commission and omission

DAVID FORMAN

A number of years ago, Intertec for Peace, a community-based program that fosters mutual understanding between Israeli Arabs and Jews, received a \$30,000 grant from the Ford Foundation to employ an outside academic institution to evaluate the program's efficiency.

For the cost of a few beers, the directors of the program could have sat together in a pub and evaluated the program more accurately than some highly paid academicians. Indeed, the \$30,000 could have been used to hire 10 interns to work in the field - a far better use of the Ford Foundation's money.

The Shamgar Commission of Inquiry into the Hebron massacre is, unfortunately, also turning out to be a monetary extravaganza. Even more so than the Ford Foundation, for here we see the exaggerated use of public funds.

Beyond examination of the actual event, the Shamgar Commission can only confirm what any unbiased individual clearly knows: that a double standard as far as Arabs are concerned is endemic to the Israeli body politic.

One needn't invest much time, energy and money in figuring this out. Therefore, I would like to invite the members of the commission out for a few drinks and ask them:

• To explain the inclusion of non-Zionist Jewish religious parties in government coalitions, but never Israeli Arab parties;

• To visit Jewish Nazareth and then Arab Nazareth;

• To compare Rabbi Moshe Levinger's six-month sentence for second-degree murder to the two-year sentence meted out to a Palestinian for throwing stones.

The revelation that Israeli soldiers may have understood it is permitted to shoot Arabs but not Jews would not likely come as a

surprise to the members of the commission. At a minimal cost to the state of a few vodkas on the rocks, such a sophisticated group of people as sit on the Shamgar Commission would acknowledge the existence of an almost halcyon tradition of double-dealing when it comes to Arabs.

Let's have a few drinks and discuss discrimination against Arabs

THE THOUSANDS of dollars this commission is costing could be better spent on the families of Arabs who are victims of Jewish terrorism.

The compensation the government is offering the families of those killed by Baruch Goldstein is absolutely insulting in proportion to the compensation given to a Jew whose car window is broken by a stone-throwing incident.

Distributing the money being spent on the commission to the Palestinian families would have been a far better way of cleansing our Jewish souls than a judicial commission that can only point out how thoroughly blind we are to the obvious: that Arabs are considered second-class citizens.

The commission should concentrate only on the investigation of army security around the Cave of the Patriarchs. Once it goes beyond that, it can only reveal the obvious prejudice that is part of Israeli society, thereby making a mockery of its own judicial process by having failed for so long to take legal action on the dis-

crimination that is so well known.

If the commission has served any purpose, it has exposed new and interesting forms of double standards. There was nothing more gratifying than seeing Kach's Baruch Marzel finally apprehended by the security forces.

But those on the left who applaud this governmental action should be as outraged at this act as they are when a Palestinian is arrested under orders of administrative detention. In a democracy, everyone is entitled to due process.

And what is wrong with a soldier refusing to dislodge a Jewish settler from his or her home, if he feels such an act goes against his conscience? How different is this from a person in Yesh Gvul refusing to serve in the territories?

As long as every soldier is willing to face the consequences of his actions, should we approve one decision based on conscience over another?

If any sort of commission need be established, it is one that can set in motion ways to address the double standards that exist in the country.

Equal appropriation of funds to Arab municipalities, equal advancement for Arabs who hold jobs in the public and private sector, equal pay, equal application of justice, equal education, social services, health services - these are what is needed to rectify the double standards that exist in this country long before the Shamgar Commission asked IDF Chief of Staff Eyal Barak if there were different rules for opening fire, one on Arabs and one on Jews.

Of course there are different rules for Arabs and Jews. Have a few beers on me, and I'll prove it to you.

The writer is spokesperson of Israeli Rabbis for Human Rights.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

EXTEND SUMMER TIME

Sir, - On April 1, daylight saving time was instituted until August 28.

I believe that the majority of the public in Israel is secular and, together with the traditional Jewish population of the country, wants to see the summer clock extended to its optimum - November every year.

YORAM ELIAN

Jerusalem.

HUMANIST APPROACH

Sir, - I cannot understand the fuss over the decree by some rabbis that soldiers should not carry out orders to evict settlers from their homes in the territories, as if the "problem" was only one involving those rabbis and their followers.

As a secular humanist, I would find it morally reprehensible to receive an order to forcibly evict Moslem families from their homes in the territories. So it would be at least equally reprehensible (if not more) to me to receive an order to expel Jews. If I were still of an age to serve in the reserves, I fear it is an order that I would not be able to carry out.

It is not those who would refuse to carry out such an order who are extremists who would endanger the IDF, but rather those who would issue such an order.

How can so many left-wing "humanists" who claimed they would rather go to jail than to carry out a transfer of Arabs seem to jump for joy at the prospect of expelling Jews? Or is their "humanism" selective?

DAVID SPRUNG

Binyamina.

BLATANTLY RACIST FILTH

Sir, - It would appear axiomatic that every newspaper, including *The Jerusalem Post*, practices a certain amount of restraint ("self-censorship") in what it prints. By the same token, it would appear obvious that the standards adopted for self-censorship in the body of the paper are relaxed somewhat in the Letters to the Editor section, to allow a fuller degree of freedom of expression to writers. Surely, though, here too there must be some type of voluntary self-censorship in the choice of what is printed and what is not printed - the latter because of its patently offensive nature.

Given the above axioms, I fail utterly to see how the editor could have allowed the printing of the blatantly racist filth propagated by one Kenneth Besig, a resident of Kiryat Arba, in the issue of March 28. Besig - whose venom you chose to circulate - claims that Baruch Goldstein's "final actions" only serve to enhance his memory. The only memory any sane person can have of Goldstein is of a man who - through either an implanted pathological hatred or in an act of insanity - undisciplinedly and in cold blood took the lives of 29 people whom he did not know and whose beliefs and values he had no way of ascertaining. The only people who can possibly agree with Besig's assertion are those - like him - who live in the topsy-turvy world of the far right fringe.

Besig then goes on to make the idiotic assertion that "the people [Goldstein] killed were murderers, supporters of murderers, and deserv[ing] of what happened to them and more." (Incidentally - what is "more" than being killed?)

Never did I ever feel that a time would come that I would have to

defend the right of people not to be shot down in cold blood. Unfortunately, the time has come - not only for me, but for every person in Israel who has not been infected by the deadly fascist doctrines propounded by Meir Kahane and his minions - doctrines whose basis is grounded totally and firmly in those propagated in Central Europe but half a century ago, and which have absolutely nothing in common with Judaism.

Unfortunately, the Besigs of our country have lost much - if not all - of what has been accepted universally as common human decency - not to mention all the dictates of Halacha, by which I assume they claim they are bound. They obviously feel that they have no less than a "Divine right" to kill (and this belief is certainly antithetical to that of the Jewish religion, no matter how their leader rationalized and/or encouraged it).

The time has come - nay, it is long overdue - for us to uproot this cancer from our midst, for us to reject utterly and totally those who would propound such views, and to demand that all our spiritual and political leaders take a firm and principled stand on the issue - something which too many of them have failed to do. The time is long past for those on the right - those who have commandeered for themselves the epithet "the nationalist camp," as if only they are nationalists - to stop kowtowing to some of this radical fringe, including thugs and killers, in the name of "civil liberties" and to stop legitimizing them by appearing with them in mass rallies.

RABBI SHMUEL

HIMELSTEIN

Jerusalem.

Clean kill

JOEL GOLOVENSKY

Schindler's List tells us more about contemporary society than it does about the Holocaust. This is why the movie disturbs me so.

Judging from his many interviews, Spielberg's purpose was to educate the public about the Holocaust. And if anyone can convey such a story to the masses, it is Spielberg, perhaps the most successful director ever.

But what does the film really tell us? *Schindler's List* is not an honest portrayal of the Holocaust. It is a fuzzy fairy tale about one Righteous Gentile's valiant efforts to save 1,100 Jews from the inferno that consumed six million.

An honest portrayal would not be centered on the story of a Righteous Gentile: they were very few and far between.

Far more to the point would be the story of a typical German, Pole, Austrian, Ukrainian, Romanian, Croatian, Estonian or Hungarian who was neither exceptionally good nor very evil before the war, but who somehow learned how to look into the eyes of innocent women and children before executing them - all day long - and then return to his loving family and the humdrum

American audiences can only handle a sanitized version of the Holocaust

problems of making ends meet, raising children and walking the dog.

In *Schindler's List*, we are not introduced to any of the victims. The only one we come close to meeting is a little girl in a red coat. The other innocent people being stomped, starved and randomly shot remain total strangers to us.

THIS DEPERSONALIZATION is no accident. It is Spielberg's way of making the film less horrendous, more acceptable, more commercial. And this is part of the genius. For he was trying to make a movie that people would want to see.

The real story of the Holocaust, of course, is the devastation of European Jewry, which had contributed so much to the world and to the very countries which so willingly cooperated in annihilating them.

The real story of the Holocaust is the endless, unfathomable suffering of having to witness the murder or starvation of children, parents, aunts, cousins, friends, neighbors, strangers. It is the story of the ever-present threat and temptation of death, loss of the desire to continue, the emptiness of life, the selfish acts needed to survive, the shame, the guilt, the loss of human dignity, the disappearance of God.

The real story of the Holocaust is the thin and fragile line separating humanity from bestiality.

The real story didn't make it to *Schindler's List*. It couldn't. It wouldn't sell.

Recently I attended a party in New York City. In addition to a well-known Israeli official, there were eight American Jewish leaders present, including one of the country's leading journalists.

I had seen *Schindler's List* the day before, and it weighed heavily on my mind. Inevitably, the subject came up. I expressed my anger at Spielberg's need to present a sanitized version of the Holocaust through the eyes of an extremely rare Righteous Gentile in order to make it palatable to the movie-going public.

Not one of these American Jews related to my point, for they fit comfortably into the American milieu. They, too, felt better watching a movie about the Holocaust without having to get to know any of the victims, reassured by the actions of a lone Righteous Gentile.

Schindler's List tells us much about contemporary society, because it tells us so little about the Holocaust.

The writer is an attorney practicing in Israel and the US.

POSTSCRIPTS I

STOP THE PRESSES! Scientists say they have discovered the largest prime number found to date - a 258,716-digit behemoth that would take eight newspaper pages to print.

Prime numbers are those divisible only by themselves or one. Simple examples are 2, 3, 5, 7 and 11. There are an infinite number of them but they do not occur in a regular sequence, meaning that supercomputers are needed to hunt them.

Cray Research of Minnesota said its supercomputer had chased down the new champ number - two multiplied by itself 859,433 times, minus 1. Now you know.



Flora Lewis

Paris - The press frenzy about Whitewater seems to have subsided for the moment, but it would be a mistake for people outside the U.S. to think the storm has passed and they can forget about it. It is sure to distract American and White House attention for some time to come, and that is the biggest single impediment now on American action in world affairs.

A special investigation is underway and both the House and the Senate plan their own hearings, televised, so the worst of the spectacle is yet to come regardless of what is learned. A perverse attitude has taken hold in Washington. There is no evidence of crime, but that isn't blowing the scandal away. On the contrary, it is taken as a sign that probers must dig deeper because heinous facts are so well buried.

This reaction is akin to the recurrent Kennedy assassination plot theories, holding that since there has never been the slightest proof of a conspiracy, it must have been terribly broad and sinister to remain hidden. Of course, the murder was a crime, and both Richard Nixon's Watergate and Ronald Reagan's Iran-Contra scandals started with much lesser but still clearly identifiable illegal acts.

Nothing like that has surfaced with Whitewater. It is all atmosphere and shadowy suspicion, nothing to do with policy nor even the White House except that the Clinton's moved there from the governor's mansion in Arkansas.

But the brouhaha about Clinton finances over a decade ago has necessarily become a presidential concern about running for reelection in 1996 and that is what it is really all about.

Willy-nilly, it is taking precious White House time and attention away from urgent affairs of state. How much more Mr. Clinton would be involving himself in critical foreign issues otherwise it is hard to say. He started out determined to give priority to the economy and so-

Whitewater Distraction Hurts Foreign Affairs



cial questions. He learned soon enough that even the economy was inextricably linked with foreign relations, and that crises abroad would neither untangle themselves nor quietly wait their turn for an American decision on whether and how to intervene.

He was moving to an awareness that it is both dangerous and against U.S. interest to leave the vacuum that American passivity creates in how the world is run. Mr. Clinton has organized his government, however, in a manner suitable for a president who wants to take a

strong, dominant hand in world affairs, like a Roosevelt and not like an Eisenhower, with an executive officer and not a concept man as Secretary of State.

But both he and Secretary Warren Christopher do understand that the world has changed since the Cold War

and that, as Mr. Christopher said recently, "We're now in an uncharted area where we have to define the national interest much more broadly." It cannot be done in a simple word or sentence, the Secretary said, listing six priorities.

They are the right ones, and while one may disagree with the order, they reflect Clinton administration acceptance that the U.S. has to show active concern if it wants a world climate in which it can reshape America as it seeks.

As Mr. Christopher named them, they are: global growth to promote economic security, Russian reform to prevent a new confrontation, "modernizing" NATO and relations with Europe, Asia — particularly China and Japan, the Middle East to promote peace, and the package of global issues including environment, population, non-proliferation, narcotics and terrorism.

It's a big menu, and delivery takes constant, hands-on, top-level effort. A French analyst was commenting the other day on ebbing American involvement and expressed surprise that "it makes so little difference." This is simply wrong. It would certainly make a lot of difference if President Clinton were putting the energy into a Middle East settlement that Jimmy Carter put into the Egypt-Israel Camp David treaty. Washington-Paris-Moscow decisiveness turned Sarajevo and Bosnia around, but they haven't followed up enough to keep progress on track. There are other examples of Clinton starts, now fizzling.

That is the importance of Whitewater, not that it damages a lively president's image but that it takes his mind and therefore public attention away from what he should be encouraged to do. America's partners in the world can lose by it. They need to allow for it and, to the extent they can, clamor loudly enough for the American press to notice what's being overlooked.

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EDITORIAL ART



WASHINGTON.



مكذمان النجیل

Steven Aftergood

Secret Experiments

The radiation experiments conducted on unwitting human subjects in the decades following World War II were first of all a personal tragedy for the individual victims and their families. But the experiments hold a larger message about the cost of secrecy and its debilitating effect on American political institutions.

Radiation testing *per se* is not the problem here. Many such experiments were published in the open medical literature at the time, many involved some form of consent, and many were apparently benign or even in some cases, beneficial, and the field of nuclear medicine, which is founded in part on Atomic Energy Commission research, has saved or extended many thousands of lives since the 1950s.

The problem rather is that many tests were secret and did not allow for anything that could be considered consent. Government accountability was nonexistent.

The belated, continuing revelations of the experiments are a timely reminder of the profound corruption of the government secrecy system. Secrecy was the enabling condition for these and other crimes, and the dismantlement of the Cold War secrecy system is now widely seen to be imperative if similar abuses are to be avoided in the future.

The conduct of the experiments — and their concealment for decades — tend to confirm some of the most outrageous public suspicions about secret government activities:

Secrecy was used to conceal radical evil. The reduction of human beings into mere instruments without their consent is the essence of such evil.



The secrecy system abused and betrayed the idea of national security. The enduring secrecy of vast quantities of documentation of the radiation experiments over several decades had nothing whatsoever to do with any threat from a foreign enemy — it was

obviously directed solely at the American people.

Congress failed to protect the public from the experiments of the coverup. With the exception of a few bold members like Rep. Edward Markey, Congress proved incapable of effectively overseeing or even investigating

the government's actions. The investigative hearings now in progress ought to have been held decades ago.

When it comes to secret government activities in defense and intelligence, the public must now recognize that there are no reliable "checks and balances." In-

stead, against an entrenched secrecy system, the public is precariously dependent on the good faith of individuals like Hazel O'Leary, on a handful of intrepid investigative reporters, and not least on its own resources. Because the Energy Department was so exceptionally responsive

to the latest reports of human experimentation, it has drawn virtually all of the public attention that has been devoted to the subject. The Central Intelligence Agency initially escaped scrutiny and was mysteriously absent from the White House "summit meeting" on January 3. That morning, the FAS Secrecy Project released documentation of the CIA's extensive track record in the area of secret human experimentation, and by the end of the day the CIA had been ordered to search its files as well. (*New York Times*, 1/5/94, A11).

Cold War experimentation on humans was not limited to radiation exposures. In the transient period in the 1970s when U.S. intelligence agencies were subjected to serious investigation, it was disclosed that the CIA had performed secret experiments in a wide range of behavior modification techniques, including drug testing (as well as "radiation effects") on unsuspecting subjects. According to the June 1975 Report to the President by the Commission on CIA Activities within the United States, chaired by Nelson Rockefeller, the CIA's human experimentation program was carried out from 1953 to 1967. At least one person in a CIA program died directly after having been administered LSD without his knowledge, an action the Commission termed "clearly illegal."

But the full scope of the CIA's behavior modification experiments on unwitting members of the public will probably never be known. The Rockefeller Commission reported that "All the records concerning the program were ordered destroyed in 1973."

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TV from page 1

whose mother really did dress him funny, and who would like to see a world where expressions of emotions and accepted social graces are reduced to code. For example, if someone wanted to tell me that his mother had passed away, he could simply say "Five," to which I would pay my condolences with a heartfelt "Nine."

In his new multimillion-dollar home, Gates has reportedly installed viewing screens that are wired to a central brain into which he has digitally entered numerous works of great art. Getting tired of looking at that old van Gogh? Hit a few buttons and — voila! — dogs playing poker on a velvet background! This man is deciding the shape of our future, my friends. Where in the Beatitudes does it say, "And the Geek shall inherit the Earth?"

I can imagine good things coming out of this electronic revolution. The Gellers, good friends who are "on the Internet" and who are very normal, bright, and creative souls, have told me about all the advantages they have found there. They can, for instance, access a seemingly bottomless well of research information. They have been able to look up things in the Budapest library while I continue to struggle with the Dewey decimal system.

Others have told me that we will soon be able to ask our televisions to show programming from abroad. This brings to mind an old acquaintance, a writer-producer, who once traveled to London with his partner and their wives. Larry sat in the hotel room for a couple of days, watching British TV while the others went out to see the sights. He booked an early flight home because "nothing was on." Now, with the Interpoop or Turboweasel or whatever is coming, he could have tuned in American programs and wound up loving England. Or, better yet, he could have hit a few buttons, sampled the BBC, and turned it off in disgust without ever having to leave Van Nuys. Just think of the money the man could have saved!

Another exciting off ramp on the Superhighway, Virtual Reality, is an idea that fascinates me, perhaps because I sometimes have trouble with Real Reality. I've done some reading on this, the Coney Island of the future, and I think I understand how it works. For several thousand bucks, you get a special computer, a set of wired Isotoner gloves, and a Flash Gordon helmet. Set it all up, select your program, punch a button, and BOOM, you're experiencing all the thrills of rush hour downtown! Talk about value for your buck.

Add to this sensory carnival a few carefully placed electrodes and some recorded groans and you enter the world of cybersex, an idea currently being peddled by such oracles as Bob Guccione. Although early systems are said to be crude, in the future big-spending patrons will be able to explore the joys of mind-boggling, toe-curling, near-life

beings. I'm fascinated at how my magazines arrive safely in the mail, then dump all these little cards on my bathroom floor. I enjoy going to bookstores, and I can't conceive of curling up on a cold winter's night with a copy of *Huckleberry Finn* on CD-ROM.

What on earth am I going to do with 500 or 1000 channels when I barely use

ogy and the people who market it and not by public demand? Should I look forward to a time when all information is available from and to a giant electronic brain that is not connected to a heart? And, finally, do I really want my world shaped by guys with the social skills of tree sloths and the complexions of Nestle's Crunch bars?

the inconvenient secondary routes: supermarkets, libraries, video-rental stores, movie theaters...and one another. Funny thing — on January 17, after the dust had settled from that 6.6 "power surge," it was those inconvenient secondary routes that remained open and passable.

Richard B. Eckhaus, a former television writer, is now teaching at Boston University.

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sexual encounters. A comforting thought for any well-adjusted man recently traumatized by the untimely blowout of his Inflatable-A-Date.

I guess the truth of the matter is that I'm just plain scared this vision of the future will come true. I don't know what I'd do in a world where everything can be done from home. I like shopping in stores that are filled with other human

seven of the 53 I now have? I'm not yet on the best of terms with my brand-new Macintosh, and I'm still having trouble with that damned VCR. I'm afraid that in the onrushing high-tech world I'll stand about as much a chance of success as John Wayne Bobbitt would on *Love Connection*. Am I alone in these feelings, or do others think that this "revolution" is being driven solely by technol-

I spent nearly 18 years of my adult life in Los Angeles, a city built upon the concept that freeways are terrific because they cut out the slower surface roads. But when I drove in L.A. I tried to take the side streets and alleys. You find so much of a city's personality hidden there.

On the Information Superhighway, we'll also be able to avoid what's on

NOTABLE QUOTES

"It took us eighteen months to build the first nuclear power generator; it now takes twelve years; that's progress."
Edward Teller

"Genius is the ability to act wisely without precedent — the power to do the right thing the first time."
Elbert Hubbard

"We have met the enemy and he is us."
Walt Kelly (comic strip *Pogo*)

"WHAT I Did for Love" (54 Across)
was written by Marvin Hamlisch for "A Chorus Line." The word SABRA (68 Across) is derived from the Hebrew word for "picky" or "fussy." Fanny del ESTE, Uruguay (38 Across) was the site for the 1961 treaty-signing which established the Alliance for Progress. Foye (13 Down) was created by cartoonist Elzie SEGAR in 1929 for the "Thimble Theater" comic strip.

The silver frenzy

KISHON'S KEYHOLE

EPHRAIM KISHON

THE weatherman had predicted a pressure that year and given as a rainy winter, which was all right for the crops but hell for our barbecue, because it smoked when the wind blew.

The little woman complained that it looked like nothing on earth, ugh, it was all black, and it used to be such a nice silver color.

I therefore decided I'd surprise her and paint it over nicely for spring.

I resolved, what's more, to do the painting myself, because a professional would demand NIS 200 for a little job like that without turning a hair. I therefore went and bought an enormous can of Aluminum Silver Paint, guaranteed fireproof, shockproof and all, as well as a sleek and thirsty-looking brush.

Next morning, when the wife had gone to work to earn our income tax, I opened the can, stirred well, dipped the brush in the shiny liquid and began to paint the barbecue. The effect was splendid: a smooth, even surface entirely eclipsing the sooty mess underneath.

I don't want to take all the credit for myself - anyone of average intelligence, an IQ of 140, say, could have done it. You simply couldn't go wrong with this aluminum stuff; it is as good as painted itself.

Try it: You'll never want to touch anything else, including paint.

I'd got so much satisfaction from my work that I just couldn't sit around and "wait till the first coat dries properly," like those finicky fusspots said on the label, but went right back and applied a second coat to my barbecue, and then a third for good measure.

Then I noticed that the bathroom taps looked rather shabby too, so I restored them to their former glory with a few strokes of the brush. Then I sat back and reasoned as follows:

My hands are dirty anyway, and the can is already open. Why not look around the house and see if there's anything else that needs touching up as long as I'm at it?

I therefore rose and started moving briskly through the place, silencing over two worn door-knobs, the kitchen tap and three aluminum saucers (after treatment they looked like new), then the brass pot in the window, along with the brass spines and a few knickknacks here and there like a shoehorn, an ashtray, two stools and the kitchen table.

AT THIS point I really wanted to stop, because I felt I was becoming addicted to the stuff, but then my glance fell on my old motor-bike and the temptation proved too much. I wheeled it up to the porch and slapped silver paint all over its body and over the chain too, though this last, come to think of it, showed I was already well on the way to the loony bin.

It was too late to go on the

wagon now, however, because the bike had dripped paint onto the porch tiles, and the only thing to do was to go over the floor as well. In a fit of inspiration, I decided to skip every other tile to obtain a charming chessboard.

After the chess I told myself sternly: "Enough!" but on my way to the porch to give the barbecue a final once-over, it occurred to me there was no point in painting only two of our door knobs, and consequently did a couple of picture frames too, and touched up our print of the Mona Lisa by dressing her in silver lame, which went much better with the smile than her own rags.

While doing the radio I suddenly noticed that my shoes had sprouted silver freckles, so I painted them over for camouflage. They looked really handsome like that, and I won't be surprised if the idea catches on. ("Smart men wear aluminum-silver shoes!")

After adding a touch of glamor to the Encyclopedia Britannica, I decided to lay off, only just then my eye caught the lampshade, so I went and got the ladder.

I got up on it to paint the lamp shade, and the light bulb (?), but as I stood there some paint spilled on our Persian rug. I'm sure you'll all be happy to know that Persian rugs absorb silver paint incredibly well, though I don't know if that's due to the quality of the paint or of the rug.

At this stage in the barbecue painting I grew lavish and started squandering silver right and left with inflationary abandon. I did the closet door (it's been fireproof-shockproof ever since), then opened it and spruced up all my wife's handbags and a few of my ties and finally changed one fur coat from plain fox to silver fox.

Next I rushed out into the garden and painted the fence, the tree trunks, the tree leaves and the carnations. Just as I was putting a second coat on the shutters, the mailman came and I sprinkled some silver on his temples to make him look more distinguished, but the fool didn't get the point and fled screaming.

Round about noon it hit me that the walls were terribly out of keeping with the rest of the place now, and just as I started to put that right the door opened and my wife came in.

"I'm sorry," she said. "I thought this was my apartment."

She was about to turn away but I stopped her and explained that this was me, her husband, and that what she saw was supposed to be a big surprise. She was surprised all right, and wanted to pack immediately and move to a hotel until the divorce was final but she couldn't on account of the paint not having dried on the suitcases yet. She then burst into tears and I sat down beside her and gently, tactfully, painted her fingernails silver.

Translated by Miriam Arad



A bus rider studies instructions for his new camera. Try taking yours on a bus. (David Brauner)

Choosing the appropriate 'mirror with a memory'

ON CAMERA

DAVID BRAUNER

ALL cameras are created equal. Whatever the shape or size, cameras are the same: a light-tight box with a hole in front and film at the back.

Releasing the shutter, like turning on a tap, admits a controlled amount of reflected light, which leaves an image on the film.

What was once called "the mirror with a memory" has evolved into two popular camera types that are best distinguished by their viewing systems. Both have advantages and disadvantages. The point-and-shoot (P&S) designs of today, equipped with a separate viewfinder through which the eye sees more or less what the lens photographs, are directly descended from the original box camera invented by George Eastman in 1888.

The venerable Kodak No. One came loaded with 100 exposures. The entire machine was returned to the factory for film processing, and the pictures and reloaded camera were sent back to the owner. Hence, Kodak's slogan: "You press the button; we do the rest."

Like the famous Brownies our parents used, the P&S is touted as foolproof. The simplest models do not require focusing. Most have built-in flashes: some have zoom lenses that range from wide-angle to short tele.

Others may feature auto-focus, motorized film advance and rewind, and DX-coding to set the correct ASA/ISO.

On the whole, viewfinders are small, light, easy to handle and inexpensive. Their chief drawback is one fixed lens, except for sophisticated (meaning very expensive)

models like the Leica M-series and its imitators that incorporate coupled rangefinders for accurate focusing and offer a line of interchangeable lenses.

IN THE main, the separation of body and lens has emerged as the single-lens reflex (SLR) camera. The SLR's viewing system is built around a hinged mirror and pentaprism which together bring the image through the lens to the eye. The SLR is the ultimate picture taker and dominates the market for most of today's serious amateurs and professionals.

The 35mm SLR as we now know it was first produced around 1935 by the German Exakta company.

The earliest models had surprising state-of-the-art features like a vast range of lenses, the first ratcheted lever wind as opposed to knurled knobs, and a detachable, synchronized flash.

One crafty idea not found on even the most expensive late-model SLRs was a built-in film-cutting knife, which allowed the photographer to cut off and process the exposed frames while saving the remainder.

Versatility is the major advantage of an SLR "system" with its accessory lenses and flash, motor drive (often built-in these days), accurate through-the-lens (TTL) metering, depth-of-field preview and automatic focusing.

One recent model even offers "eye-controlled" auto-focus,

meaning the camera focuses on that part of the composition the eye is looking at, even if it's off-center!

On the debit side, SLRs are heavy, especially when used with a zoom or tele lens. They are also noisy, making a relatively loud "ka-chunk" during exposure, that can often draw unwanted attention to the photographer. Lastly, the SLR with its many moving parts is expensive both to buy and to repair.

Like any tool, the camera should not be taken for granted. Hold it steady, brace it against a tree or doorknob if possible, and squeeze the shutter slowly and deliberately. When a photographer treats the camera with respect, it responds.

In my experience, the camera understands when a particular frame is really important.

Keep the little gem clean and dust free, especially the lens. No handkerchiefs or tissues, please; they cause scratches. Invest in a cleaning kit consisting of a blower brush, lens fluid and papers, available at your local photo shop.

Using a camera only to record the kids growing up or to bring home pictorial souvenirs from a vacation is fine. But using a camera for other photographs is exciting, surprising and fun.

Try taking a camera on the bus to work or to the market or on a walk with the dog. Your camera will train your eyes to look for humor, pathos and pattern, in even the most familiar places.

Being interested in photography and the world around you is what makes a good picture, not the camera.

He jumped in to save Jews

THERE AND THEN

SRAYA SHAPIRO

SHAIKE Dan, who died last month, dedicated his life to saving Jews from Eastern Europe during the Holocaust and its aftermath.

He was born Yeshayahu Trachtenberg in 1910 and immigrated to Palestine from Romania in 1935 after hearing Zeev Jabotinsky speak in Kishinev.

In Palestine, he joined a group of enthusiasts who hoped to establish a kibbutz, but meanwhile worked as stevedores in Haifa port.

Eventually, the group set up Kibbutz Nir Am, near the Gaza strip.

His rescue mission started in 1944 when he volunteered to parachute into the Balkans to serve British Intelligence and help Jews escape.

His story was revealed to the public some years ago on the television show *This Is Your Life*.

At that time he explained his motive for aiding the British during the war.

"To rescue prisoners is a humanitarian act, also a *mitzva*, and fair payment to the British, who knew quite well that when the time came we would devote ourselves mainly to rescuing Jews," Dan said.

He preferred the "blind drop" when he parachuted.

Some of his comrades on similar missions chose to land in areas controlled by the Yugoslav partisans.

But living entirely on his wits suited Dan's character better.

He and Yitzhak Ben-Ephraim (nicknamed Manu) were dropped somewhere in Transylvania, walked at night and hid in daylight. One day they melted into a crowd of factory workers and saw soldiers escorting a group of Jews to forced labor.

Somehow, they reached Bucharest.

They had an address to look for and knew a password which they tried with a man they encountered in the court of the Greek smuggler Pandelis.

The man turned pale as chalk. "Why did you come?" was his reaction. "If the Russians get here, Zionist activity won't be possible, and if the Germans stay, there'll be total annihilation."

Dan was very upset by the popular assumption that the dispatch of emissaries - the "parachutists" as they were usually referred to - behind the enemy lines rendered no tangible support to the war effort and to the rescue of Jews.

In fact, Dan said, the "parachutists" did locate the whereabouts of British prisoners.

Through Dr. A. L. Zisu, a prominent Zionist leader who maintained covert contacts with prime minister Ion Antonescu, Dan warned the Romanians that "any harm done the British and American pilots would not be forgiven, and there is no envying the ones who will have to pay the price for that."

THE MAIN business of the emissaries was, of course, arranging for the expedition of many thousands of Jews on "illegal" ships for the risky journey to Palestine.



Shaike Dan: Living entirely on his wits suited him best.

One of the ships, the *Mekfura*, was sunk by what probably was a Russian torpedo. Of the 350 refugees, only five managed to reach a sister ship in the vicinity.

Dan's extraordinary talent in making contact with key people is best illustrated by the case of "Stefan," the head of Tito's security services. Dan invariably referred to him as "The Friend."

Dan roamed about Yugoslavia for several months looking for opportunities to send refugee ships before he dared to phone "Stefan," whose number had been given to him by another emissary.

He discovered that "Stefan," whom he had never met before, knew his identity and all about his illegal activities.

But instead of imprisoning him, "Stefan" helped arrange shipments from a Yugoslav port for refugees from Romania and Bulgaria.

"Stefan" insisted, however, that Yugoslav Jews not be included in the scheme.

Amos Ettinger - who wrote a book, *Blind Jump*, on Dan in 1992 - first met him some 30 years ago when he prepared a radio broadcast on the sinking in the port of Bari, Italy, of the *Lino*, which was laden with arms destined for Syria during the War of Independence.

Helping in the planning of this operation was Eva, a bright young woman in Zagreb whom Dan met during the war in Yugoslavia and later married.

Few outside his immediate friends knew what Dan had accomplished. Secrecy was second nature to him.

"Don't tell where you're going, even if it's only to the bathroom," was his adage.

As a motto for his book, Ettinger chose a remark by Moshe Perlmutter, the brilliant military spokesman in the War of Independence.

"When I first knew Shaike Trachtenberg-Dan during the events of the Second World War in Europe, I said to myself: 'If there are such people in the Land of Israel, I must go there.' When I immigrated... I found out that there aren't any such people in Israel - because there is only one Shaike."

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Edward Teller

"I don't see the ability to act with a minimum of delay - the power to act in the first time."

Elbert Hubbard

"The only true enemy and the only true friend of the world is the world itself."

Walt Kelly comic strip Prop

"I have not seen a single cat strictly confined to the home that did not become ill after a few weeks on a vegetarian diet."

"Dogs also need animal proteins but can and do utilize a lot of fats and vitamins from vegetable material."

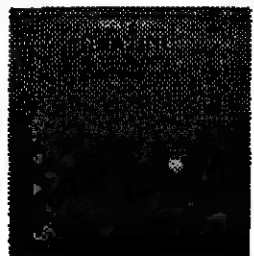
"The Chinese used to feed the dogs they raised for human food on a vegetable diet, but these dogs were killed at about three or four months of age, so the long-term effects of their malnutrition was not a factor."

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Vilk threatens to quit if Hefetz gets inspector-general post

JERUSALEM Police chief Yehuda Vilk has threatened to resign if, as expected, Central District police commander Assaf Hefetz is chosen as the next police inspector-general.

Police Ministry sources said last night that Police Minister Moshe Shahal is likely to announce his choice for replacing outgoing inspector-general Rafi Peled as early as today.

One ministry source said that Shahal has already chosen Hefetz to be the new inspector-general.

Shahal is slated to meet today with Hefetz. Vilk and Tel Aviv District police commander Gabi Last. Shahal is also expected to meet today with Prime Minister Rabin to report on his choice for inspector-general. Both Rabin and the cabinet must approve the appointment.

On Friday, Shahal met in Haifa with 14

BILL HUTMAN and RAINE MARCUS

senior police officers to discuss Peled's replacement. Vilk told Shahal that he would resign if Hefetz gets the job. Police sources said that Hefetz has also threatened to resign if he is not nominated. However, Hefetz did not repeat this threat at his Friday meeting with Shahal, ministry sources said.

Sources said the feud between Vilk and Hefetz dates back 10 years to when Vilk, a lawyer, prosecuted Hefetz in disciplinary proceedings. Hefetz was accused of leaking privileged information to reporters.

Last year, Hefetz, in his fourth year as central district commander, was also in the running for the post, but Shahal preferred Peled.

Ministry sources said Shahal had chosen Hefetz this time around because he can not afford

unnecessary shocks within the force, and Hefetz, who also acts as deputy-inspector-general, is highly experienced in matters of internal security.

Hefetz, 49, founded and commanded the elite terror unit, headed the Tel Aviv central detective unit, was national headquarters' deputy special operations officer and headed the Coastal Plain sub-district.

In 1978 he headed a squad sent to rescue a busload of Egged employees ambushed by terrorists.

If Hefetz becomes the next inspector-general, Shahal still has to make a final decision on who will replace him as commander of the Central District. The district is considered a sensitive area since it borders on the Green Line and is susceptible to terror attacks because of its vicinity to Arab villages.

Labor raises stakes in bid to get Mapam to join its Histadrut list

MICHAEL YUDELMAN

LABOR upped its offers to Mapam this weekend in a final bid to persuade the party to leave Meretz and join a Labor list for next month's Histadrut elections.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin is expected to appear at Mapam's convention this afternoon in a last-ditch effort to persuade Mapam to leave Meretz — running for the Histadrut elections in a list headed by MK Haim Ramon — and join Labor in the elections.

Rabin's final decision will be made this morning, after meeting with Mapam Chairman Hanan Erez, and will depend on the prime minister's agenda and the tendency in Mapam's leadership, senior Labor sources said yesterday.

Labor Secretary-General Nissim Zivli said yesterday that "Ramon is stabbing Rabin in the back. What is at stake here is not the Histadrut but the shattering of the whole (Labor) party and its democratic structure. That's what we're up against and the sooner Rabin realizes this, the sooner he can do something about it."

Both Labor and Meretz leaders have been intensively wooing Mapam, whose convention delegates meet today to make a decision that will determine the party's future. Labor and Mapam leaders met over the weekend and ham-

pered out a joint agreement for running together, ensuring Mapam a series of benefits including considerable sums of money.

The agreement, which will be presented to Mapam's convention members at the meeting, more than doubles Mapam's power in the Histadrut by giving it one member for every five on Labor's list, from the third slot onwards.

Mapam had wanted slot number two, but accepted without protest when Histadrut Secretary-General Haim Haberfeld insisted that place was reserved for a woman, in this case, Na'amat Secretary-General Ofra Friedman.

Mapam's financial allocation will increase based on the increase of its members in the Histadrut institutions. It is expected to reach some NIS 2 million a year, according to the agreement.

The agreement also specifies that Labor and Mapam will formulate a joint program for their election platform, including a timetable for implementing reforms; a joint formula for a state health insurance bill; a reform in the pension system; and a reform in the structure of the labor councils, focusing on establishing councils in Arab towns and villages based on the same criteria as in

Jewish localities.

Minister Yossi Sarid of Meretz yesterday warned Mapam that if it runs with Labor, Meretz would break up into its original components, with crucial implications for Meretz's chances to continue to exist as a party.

In a letter to Mapam convention members, Sarid urged them to stay part of Meretz so that Ramon can be elected Histadrut secretary general. "I implore you," he wrote, "don't play with Meretz's fate. Let us be our own head, rather than somebody else's tail. We've been a tail before and we have been waggled. Let's get Meretz (in Hebrew energy or vitality) into the Histadrut, as we did in the government."

The Citizens Rights Movement and Shinui councils are also due to meet this evening to ratify their central committee's respective decisions to go with Ramon. Labor's Political Bureau also convenes today for its first debate on the move by Ramon's group.

Tuesday is the final date for presenting lists for the Histadrut elections. Wednesday morning, the day after Ramon presents his list to the elections committee, he and his colleagues, MKs Amir Peretz and Shmuel Avital, will receive letters expelling them from the party, as Zivli announced last week.



Absorption Minister Yair Tzaban consoles the family of Daga Perda of Yavne, one of the victims of the suicide bombing attack in Hadera last week. Thousands attended his funeral Friday. (Yitzhak Elbarat/Scoop 80)

Eilat man stabbed to death in fight over mooring for boat

THIRTY-NINE-YEAR-OLD Shalom Biton of Eilat was stabbed to death and his cousin was wounded in a dispute over a mooring place for Biton's boat early yesterday morning.

Police learned of the incident after they received a call from Josephthal Hospital about two stabbing victims. An investigation revealed that a fight had erupted between Biton and a young man over who had the right to a mooring place in the marina.

During the fight, the young man pulled a knife and stabbed Biton in the stomach and also stabbed

his cousin, Avraham Avital, of Jerusalem. Biton was operated on but died of his wound on the operating table at 3 a.m. yesterday morning. Avital was reported in good to moderate condition.

Police were still searching for the assailant, whose identity is known to them.

In Beersheba, a policeman was stabbed in the testicles and a nightclub security guard was also stabbed during a brawl that erupted outside the Forum club in the town's industrial area early yesterday morning. Police are still seeking the assailant.

The incident occurred at about 2:30 a.m. when a young man tried to enter the club. Security guard Avraham Weltman, 42, found a penknife on him and tried to take it away from him. A fight ensued during which Weltman was lightly stabbed in the chest.

Police were called to the scene and officer Sami Mizrahi tried to handcuff the man, but was stabbed by him in the testicles. He was taken to Soroka Hospital, where he received six stitches, and was later released.

Meanwhile, Southern District police filed an indictment Friday

against Alexander Zilnick, accused of stabbing to death Eli Vaknin, 27, during a brawl March 25 over the amount of noise Zilnick and his friends were making.

"According to the indictment, Zilnick pulled a knife out of his belt and stabbed Vaknin during the fight. Police also asked the Beersheba District Court to extend Zilnick's remand until the completion of legal proceedings against him. The hearing on the police request will be held next Sunday, and Zilnick will remain in custody until then. (Itim)

Sarid issues order banning gas leaks from Kiryat Ata gas farm

ENVIRONMENT Minister Yossi Sarid ordered his ministry's legal department to issue a special order on Friday forbidding any gas leaks into the atmosphere during work at the Kiryat Ata gas farm, where a fire broke out last week. Investigators determined that

the fire was caused by an electrical spark from a forklift at the site. The spark ignited gas that had leaked into the air during the filling of a cooking gas tank.

At an emergency meeting Sarid called immediately following the fire, the minister condemned the fact that the gas farm was operating without a business license, saying "it can't be that the state is without recourse when a body is operating outside the law."

The meeting was attended by Haifa fire chief Moshe Vardi, Kiryat Ata Mayor David Re'em, the head of the Fuel Authority, David Bozner, and representatives of the Energy and Environment Ministry.

Sarid said that in the framework of the special order, every issue under his ministry's auspices would be checked. (Itim)

Gov't pharmacists end strike

JUDY SIEGEL

SOME 130 government pharmacists ended a four-day strike on Friday under threats of restraining orders from the Tel Aviv District Labor Court.

However, 1,070 pharmacists who work at Kupat Holim Clalit hospitals and community clinics will continue their strike today, at least until a 2 p.m. union meeting decides whether they should also return to work.

Health Ministry labor relations official Harold Bar asked the judge for restraining orders against the government pharmacists, arguing that the strike had not been approved by the Histadrut. The union was protesting the employers' failure to negotiate a new wage contract to replace the one which expired 18 months ago.

The strike has so far forced the postponement of hundreds of operations and thousands of clinic visits and reduced the supply of medications in hospital and clinic warehouses.

The court persuaded the government workers to return to work immediately without actually issuing the restraining orders, and instructed the two sides to negotiate over the next 10 days, after which they will report back to him. Kupat Holim pharmacists, however, said they must discuss the situation before deciding whether to return to work.

Union head Dvora Arad said she was hopeful that Kupat Holim pharmacists would also return to work after today's meeting. If not, the health fund will continue its temporary policy of allowing members to purchase prescription drugs in private pharmacies after buying "stamps" in clinics.

Investigators still tightlipped on 'Yediot Ahronot' wiretapping

RAINE MARCUS

RAFI Friedan and Ya'acov Tsur, the two private investigators suspected of eavesdropping on phones of senior Yediot Ahronot employees and others, are still refusing to cooperate with police despite offers of immunity.

Friedan, manager of the Agam investigations company who was sentenced to community service recently for similar offenses, is still denying that his actions were illegal.

By law someone can tape his own conversations with a second party but cannot record conversations between second and third parties.

Eavesdropping on cellular phone calls is also a legal gray area, with scanners picking up such conversations. However, a special machine is needed to tune into specific cellular phones.

Agam company owner Tsur denies all knowledge of bugging cellular phones, faxes and pagers, maintaining that his job is to manage investigations.

Friedan is known in the private investigations community as a specialist in eavesdropping, and although police said they have seized a machine for tuning into cellular phones, other sources

said that the investigator still has another, more sophisticated machine.

Police are still no wiser about who ordered the tapping of Tel Aviv Mayor Ronni Milo's phones, those of the Likud party center, senior Yediot employees and others, and are pessimistic that they will discover who paid the investigators to eavesdrop.

Offenders found guilty of illegal bugging may be sentenced to a maximum sentence of a year's imprisonment, while those ordering eavesdropping services face a maximum three-year jail sentence.

Hints that the eavesdropping was ordered by rival managers within Yediot were also unconfirmed, but sources said this was a possibility, together with an outside party paying for spying on goings-on at the daily newspaper and at other institutions.

The case surfaced when a senior Yediot employee complained to police that her phone was tapped. Police discovered Benny Hayoun replacing cassettes in a vehicle near her Herzliya home.

Following a three-day remand in custody, Hayoun was placed under house arrest Friday, after his lawyer David Yiftach persuaded a judge that his client was a mere employee whose job it was to replace cassettes in vehicles located near subjects' homes, and did not know he was acting illegally.

Danny Patri, a trainee investigator suspected of tapping phones, was also placed under house arrest Friday, after he cooperated with police.

Free oral cancer checkups available today

JUDY SIEGEL

FREE checkups for the detection of pre-cancerous growths in the mouth will be available today at 11 hospitals and two dental schools around the country, as part of World Health Day, whose theme is dental and oral health.

The Health Ministry says that the checks will be available between 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. at the following hospitals: Poriya in Tiberias, Rambam in Haifa, Beilinson in Petah Tikva, Meir in Kfar Sava, Sheba at Tel Hashomer, Assaf Harofe in Tarfita, Hadassah-University Hospital, Ein Kerem, in Jerusalem, Barzilai in Ashdod and Soroka in Beersheba. The public may also go for check ups at the Tel Aviv University dental school and the Hebrew University-Hadassah School of Dentistry in Ein Kerem.

World Health Day, initiated by the World Health Organization (WHO), was observed in the rest of the world two weeks ago, but the events were postponed by the Health Ministry until today because it fell on Holocaust Martyrs' and Heroes' Remembrance Day.

Another event will be an open phone line on dental health, to be held today between noon and 6 p.m. Experts at the Tel Aviv district health office will answer questions at (03) 563-4848 during those hours.

The ministry is also sponsoring a seminar today on dental medicine at Magid auditorium at the Hebrew University-Hadassah Medical School on the Ein Kerem campus. The event, from 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., will include lectures on dental care for young children, fluoridation of the water supply, prevention of dental caries and gum diseases, the role of the dental hygienist and dental health in the Israel Defense Forces.

The WHO said it chose dental hygiene as its theme this year because awareness of the subject is low and needs to be raised. Thousands of people who lack basic dental care die each year from preventable and treatable oral cancers or severe oral infections, according to the WHO. "It also keeps many people out of work. People already in frail health from malnutrition often suffer gum ulcers and other degenerative diseases."

Last week, the Israel Dental Association quoted WHO figures that ranked Israel's dental record among the worst in the world, with the same rate of cavities as numerous underdeveloped countries. Israel barely ranked higher than Brazil, Peru, Bolivia and Uruguay, where the average child had 6.5 or more teeth missing, decayed or filled by the time he or she reached 12.

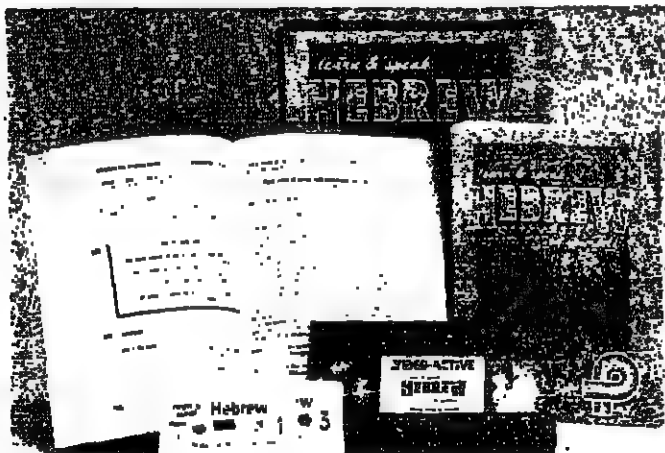
Lotto winners

One winner took the NIS 2 million first prize in Thursday's Lotto drawing, while three people took second prize, with each winning NIS 29,653. There were 122 third prize winners, each getting NIS 1,823. Over 6,000 people won the fourth prize of NIS 65.90. Fifth prize was won by over 117,000 people, who each got NIS 12.90. And over 84,000 people won sixth prize, NIS 5.30.

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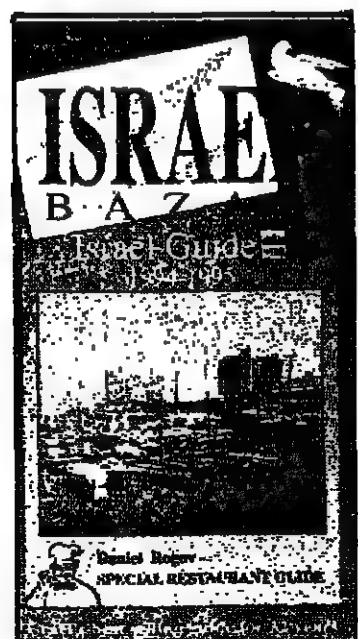
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Tel _____

NHL set for playoffs

NEW YORK (AP) — It's not like these New York Rangers have never won a Stanley Cup. Individually, up and down their roster, there are seven players sporting championship rings. All that jewelry, however, was earned elsewhere.

The Rangers, who finished with the best record in the NHL for the second time in three years, try to end a 54-year dry spell when they set out on another playoff quest today. For openers, they face their New York neighbors, the Islanders, who sneaked into the playoffs the day before the end of the regular season.

Other Eastern Conference first-round pairings have Washington against Pittsburgh, Buffalo against New Jersey and defending Cup champion Montreal against Boston. In the Western Conference, it will be San Jose against Detroit, Vancouver against Calgary, Chicago against Toronto and St. Louis against Dallas.

Boston and Montreal will meet for the 10th time in 11 years. The Bruins have won four of the last five series against the Canadiens.

Final Standings

Atlantic Division						
	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
z-N.Y. Rangers	52	24	8	112	239	231
z-New Jersey	47	25	12	106	306	280
z-Washington	39	35	10	88	277	263
z-N.Y. Islanders	38	36	12	84	282	264
Florida	33	34	17	83	233	233
Philadelphia	35	39	10	80	294	314
Tampa Bay	30	43	11	71	224	251

Northeast Division						
	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
y-Pittsburgh	44	27	13	101	289	285
x-Boston	42	29	13	97	289	252
x-Montreal	41	29	14	96	283	248
x-Buffalo	43	32	9	95	282	218
Quebec	34	42	8	76	277	292
Hartford	27	48	9	63	227	298
Ottawa	14	51	9	37	201	387

WESTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	T	Pts	Gf	Ga
z-Detroit	46	30	8	100	258	275
x-Toronto	43	29	12	98	280	243
x-Dallas	42	29	13	97	286	285
x-St. Louis	40	33	11	91	270	283
x-Chicago	39	36	9	87	254	240
Winnipeg	24	51	9	57	245	344

Pacific Division						
Category	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Vancouver	41	40	3	85	279	276
San Jose	33	36	18	82	252	285
Anaheim	33	45	6	71	229	251
Los Angeles	27	45	12	66	294	322
Edmonton	25	45	14	64	281	305

Thursday's results: Buffalo 2, Boston 1; Washington 3, Buffalo 2; Philadelphia 2, NY Rangers 2; New Jersey 4, Ottawa 1; Tampa Bay 5, Quebec 3; Florida 4, NY Islanders 1; St. Louis 3, Winnipeg 1; Toronto 6, Chicago 4; Dallas 4, Detroit 3; Edmonton 2, Los Angeles 2; End of regular season.

Gresaro wins Grand Prize

STEVE WEIL

ARYE Gresaro won the Grand Prize at the Caesars Golf Club over the weekend.

In the fourth and final round of the four-month competition, an individual stableford with the best two scores to count, Gresaro took a division honors with 77. Chester Sabatney came in second one point behind.

The B division was won by Amir Shub with 82. In second was Celi Mandel with 80.

Herziya-Kfar Shmaryahu D is now enjoying a 15-point advantage over Jerusalem B in the ongoing Coca Cola League.

Reserves push Knicks past Bullets

NEW YORK (AP) — Reserves Anthony Mason and Herb Williams scored all but two of the points in a 12-0 fourth-quarter run that gave the Knicks a 103-90 victory over Washington Friday night.

New York's victory kept the Knicks tied with Atlanta for first place in the Eastern Conference, with Chicago a half-game back.

The Knicks trailed 80-79 before Mason sneaked inside to grab a missed free throw and score. Mason scored inside on two power moves in the next two minutes and

Once enough for Johnson

After 11 games as coach of the team for which he used to star, Magic Johnson confirmed Friday night that he won't return to the Los Angeles Lakers next season.

"Coaching requires a tremendous commitment of time and energy, so with all that Earvin is trying to accomplish in his life, I readily understand his decision," owner Jerry Buss said in the Lakers' statement.

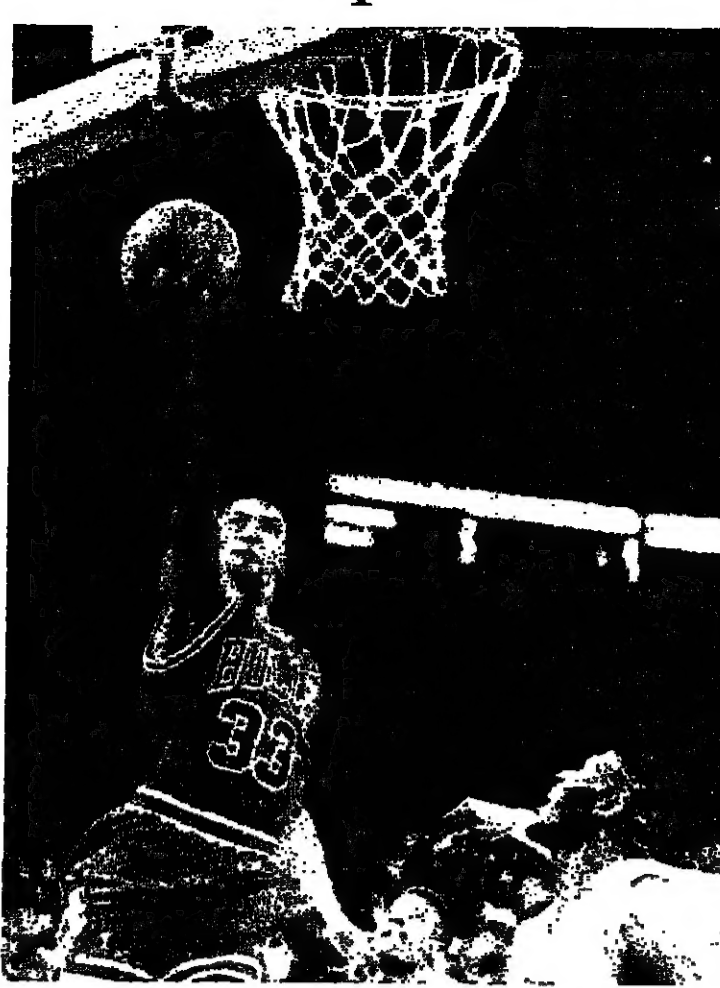
also passed to Williams for one of his two dunks during the spurt, which gave New York a 91-80 lead with 6:46 left.

Nets 119, Pistons 114 (OT)

Kenny Anderson scored 12 of his career-high 45 points in overtime and added 14 assists as host New Jersey handed Detroit its eighth straight loss. Anderson, whose two free throws with three seconds to play in regulation tied the score at 103, scored New Jersey's first eight points in the extra session as the Nets took a 112-107 lead. Benoit Benjamin gave New Jersey the lead for good with two free throws with 53.2 to play.

Bulls 88, Hornets 85

BJ Armstrong's 3-point shot with 4.5 seconds left snapped a tie and visiting Chicago put a serious dent in the Hornets' playoff hopes. The victory was Chicago's 10th straight, matching a season-high win streak for the Bulls. Hornets center Alonzo Mourning and Chicago center Luc Longley were ejected in the third period for fighting. Scottie Pippen led the Bulls with 34 points and 10 rebounds, while De



FORWARD MOTION — Bulls forward Scottie Pippen leaps toward the hoop over a pair of Hornets defenders. (Reuters)

Curry finished with 20 points for Charlotte.

Celtics 113, Magic 110 (2OT)

Dee Brown's two free throws gave host Boston the lead for good with 1:08 left in the second overtime, and the

Friday's results:

Boston 113, Orlando 110 (2OT)
New York 103, Washington 99
New Jersey 119, Detroit 114 (OT)
Cleveland 109, Miami 100
Chicago 88, Charlotte 85
Indiana 130, Minnesota 112
Dallas 99, Denver 97
Atlanta 105, Milwaukee 96
Portland 105, LA Lakers 100

Celtics won despite 42 points by Shaquille O'Neal.

O'Neal, held to seven points after the third quarter, missed three of four free throws in the final minute after Brown had made the score 110-109.

It was the fourth win in five games for Boston, while Orlando lost its second straight after winning four in a row.

Thursday's results:
New York 121, Washington 106
Charlotte 112, Orlando 106
Houston 104, Sacramento 99
Utah 101, San Antonio 96
Seattle 130, LA Clippers 101
Golden State 113, Portland 108

Braves pound Cubs 19-5

CHICAGO (AP) — Fred McGriff, Terry Pendleton and Tony Tarasco hit consecutive homers in the first inning and the Atlanta Braves scored the most runs in team history Friday, routing Chicago 19-5.

Deion Sanders and Ryan Klesko hit two-run homers in the eighth inning for the Braves, who had 24 hits. Sanders and Pendleton each drove in four runs. Winner Tom Glavine (2-0) allowed three hits in 5 1/3 innings. Anthony Young (0-1) retired the first two batters, but Klesko walked and, in a span of seven pitches, McGriff, Pendleton and Tarasco homered.

Jeff Johnston, acquired in the Mitch Williams trade, held visiting Cincinnati to one hit in seven innings.

Juden, making only his fifth career start, lost his no-hit bid in the seventh when Hal Morris led off with a sharp single to center.

Jeff Bagwell drove in four runs and Ken Caminiti hit a two-run homer for visiting Houston.

Bagwell and Steve Finley each hit solo homers to support a strong pitching performance by Doug Drabek, who held the Mets to three hits in eight innings.

FRIDAY'S NL RESULTS: Atlanta 19, Chicago 5; San Francisco 6, Florida 4; Philadelphia 3, Cincinnati 1; Pittsburgh 6, Los Angeles 4; Houston 8, New York 1; St. Louis 16, San Diego 6; Colorado 9, Montreal 2.

FRIDAY'S AL RESULTS: New York 7, Detroit 5; Kansas City 2, Cleveland 1; Boston 5, Chicago 3; Texas 8, Baltimore 3; Minnesota 8, Oakland 7; Seattle 9, Milwaukee 1; California 14, Toronto 13 (10).

THURSDAY'S NL RESULTS: Florida 8, Houston 2; St. Louis 9, Los Angeles 6; New York 10, Chicago 9; Pittsburgh 4, San Diego 2; Atlanta 6, San Francisco 1; Colorado 5, Philadelphia 6; THURSDAY'S AL RESULTS: Baltimore 3, Detroit 1; New York 10, Chicago 3; Minnesota 5, Oakland 4; Milwaukee 7, Texas 2; California 6, Toronto 4.

SCOREBOARD

CRICKET — Brian Lara and Jimmy Adams added an unbeaten 154 for the third wicket yesterday to give the initiative for West Indies after the early loss of both openers on the first day of the fifth test against England at St. John's, Antigua. After West Indies had added an unbeaten 154 for the third wicket yesterday to give the initiative for West Indies after the early loss of both openers on the first day of the fifth test against England at St. John's, Antigua.

EUROSPORT

8:30 Aerobics 10:00 Figure skating 11:00 Rotterdam marathon 12:00 European tennis 13:00 Eurogolf 14:00 Basketball: European final four from Tel Aviv 15:15 Live cycling 17:30 Mountain bike 18:00 Leisure sports 18:30 Horse racing 19:30 Formula 1 from Japan 20:00 European news 21:00 Special: prime time boxing 22:00 Motoring magazine 23:00 Soccer: Paris St. Germain v Brazil, friendly match 2:00 European news

PRIME SPORTS

6:00 PGA golf 8:00 Live cricket: Sri Lanka v New Zealand 18:30 PGA golf 19:00 Cricket: Sri Lanka v New Zealand 2:00 PGA golf

TUESDAY

CHANNEL 5
16:00 Gymnastics 16:30 A look back at the NCAA final four 18:00 WWF 20:30 NBA diary 21:00 Brazilian soccer 22:00 French league soccer 23:00 English league soccer 23:30 Road race 23:40 International swimming championships from Haiti

EUROSPORT
9:30 Aerobics 10:00 Horse racing 11:00 Boston marathon 12:00 Africa Cup soccer final 14:00 Eurogolf 15:00 Tennis 16:00 Leisure sports 17:00 NHL 18:30 Soccer: Paris St. Germain v Brazil, friendly match 19:30 Formula 1 from Japan 20:00 European news 21:00 Special: prime time boxing 22:00 Motoring magazine 23:00 Soccer: Paris St. Germain v Brazil, friendly match 2:00 European news

PRIME SPORTS
6:00 Tennis 7:00 European soccer 8:00 Live cricket: Australia Cup 1st semi-final 18:30 Golf 17:30 Tennis 18:00 Cricket: Australia Cup 1st semi-final 2:00 Golf

WEDNESDAY

CHANNEL 5
16:00 English league soccer 17:00 French league soccer 17:30 NBA diary 18:00 (to be announced) 18:30 Table tennis 19:30 NBA basketball: Orlando v Chicago 21:00 Special: Italian basketball coaches 21:25 Live European basketball: final four from Tel Aviv 22:00 European tennis 00:00 Snooker 2:00 European news

PRIME SPORTS
6:00 Figure skating 7:00 Live gymnastics from Australia 8:30 Formula 1 14:00 Live gymnastics from Australia 11:00 World Cup soccer 11:30 WWF 12:30 Live gymnastics from Australia 14:00 World of rugby 15:00 NBA basketball: Detroit Pistons v Boston Celtics 17:00 Tennis 18:00 Gymnastics from Australia 21:00 NBA basketball: Detroit Pistons v Boston Celtics 22:00 World Cup soccer 1:30 World of rugby

Mor's goal gives Holon upset win over Mac TA

MACCABI Haifa will be thanking its lucky stars this week.

After an exciting round of matches yesterday, the Haifaite have a two-point lead at the top of the National League. But it was more through the ill fortune of Maccabi Tel Aviv than through their own doing.

The Tel Avivians were stunned 3-2 at home by Hapoel Holon, while the Haifaite themselves almost came unstuck in their home match against Maccabi Netanya, that match being played at Bloomfield because of Haifa's radius punishment.

Mac TA 2, Hap. Holon 3

In one of the most sensational results this season, Maccabi Tel Aviv lost valuable ground to Maccabi Haifa as it stumbled inexplicably in front of the home crowd at the National Stadium.

Tel Aviv got off to a flying start but was unable to convert its advantage into goals. Then, in the 22nd minute, Izzak Saissa dampened the Tel Avivians' spirits when he put Holon ahead.

Saissa struck again in the 35th minute, but Maccabi was having none of it.

Eli Driks headed one into the Holon net immediately after the restart, but referee Daoud Suhil disallowed the goal for offside.

The second half saw Maccabi get back into the reckoning as Driks was again involved in the action.

In the 47th minute, he was fouled in the area and Izzak Zohar pulled a goal back for the title contenders. Twelve minutes later, the exact situation repeated itself as Driks was again brought down in the area. Zohar stepped up to take a second shot at goal and put Maccabi level.

Maccabi could not have expected to be punished again, but they were, when a superb long-range shot by the unknown Itai Mor gave Alexander Ohry no chance in the Maccabi goal.

Ugly scenes continued after the final whistle when Maccabi players mobbed referee Suhil, claiming that he had not added on any injury time. Suhil then promptly produced the red card against Maccabi's Kobi Refuah after he punched Holon's twin goalkeepers.

Mac. Haifa 1, Mac. Netanya 1

In a poor performance in the first of their three radius matches played at Bloomfield, the Haifaite started out well but were unable to find the back of the Netanya's net.

The curse continued in the second half, until the 75th minute, when Haifa's Moshe Giam pounced on a loose ball which was fumbled by Netanya's keeper Gabi Elbaz.

But just five minutes later, it was Netanya who had luck on its side when a blunder in the Haifa defense allowed

ORI LEWIS

Avishai Janno to punish a loose ball which should have been cleared for a corner.

Hap. Kfar Sava 1, Hap. Tel Aviv 4

Kfar Sava seems to be starting the relegation playoffs in the face after yesterday's poor performance.

Tel Aviv, in fifth place put on an excellent display to bury Kfar Sava's hopes of gaining precious points when first Tomer Eliyahu in the 12th minute, and then Alon Ophir two minutes later, gave Tel Aviv a clear advantage.

Michael Yaffe pulled one back for Kfar Sava a minute later.

In the second half, Tel Aviv used the counter-attack to great effect, and just when Kfar Sava looked like getting back on equal terms, Haim Revivo put Tel Aviv 3-1 up from the penalty spot.

Hezi Shirazi sealed the scoreline with Tel Aviv's fourth in the 69th minute.

Hap. Haifa 1, Bnei Yehuda 1

Bottom of the table Haifa is beginning to sense that there may be just a glimmer of hope of staying off relegation.

With nothing to lose they went into this match with an attacking lineup in the hope of gaining a much-needed win over Bnei Yehuda, which lies in lowly 11th place.

By throwing caution to the winds, Haifa let in the visitors from the Haifa Quarter and Moshe Eliezer put them ahead in the 30th minute.

Haifa was not going to be dissuaded from continuing its attacking style of play. The play worked well and Hi-

NATIONAL LEAGUE

Hap. Haifa (01) Bnei Yehuda (11)
Zuhbi 67 Eisenberg 30
Mac. PT (01) Mac. Herzliya (00)
Ben-Shimon 2, 34 from Ashdod (11)
Talenkov 19 Hap. PT (00)

Hap. Kfar Sava (11) Hap. Tel Aviv (20)
Yaffe 20 Eyal 12
Hap. Kfar Sava (11) Hap. Tel Aviv (20)
Yaffe 20 Eyal 12

Mac. Haifa (01) Mac. Netanya (01)
Zuhbi 67 Eisenberg 30
Mac. Tel Aviv (01) Hap. Holon (20)
Zohar 47, 65 (pens.) Sussas 22, 35

Hap. Beersheba (11) Hap. Jerusalem (00)
Schwartz 11 Ben-Zion 81
Hap. Beersheba (11) Hap. Jerusalem (00)
Schwartz 11 Ben-Zion 81

After 32 rounds

	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Mac. Haifa	23	9	0	78	21	78
Mac. Tel Aviv	24	4	0	70	28	78
Mac. Herzliya	17	5	10	60	48	58
Hap. Beersheba	15	8	9	46	58	53
Hap. Tel Aviv	11	8	13	55	49	41
Hap. Holon	10	11	18	47	41	41
Mac. Netanya	8	11	21	31	35	38
Mac. Herzliya	9	10	13	40	47	37
Mac. Petach Tikva	8	9	14	32	42	36
Bnei Yehuda	10	8	17	35	38	38
Bnei Yehuda	8	17	17	45	60	31
Hap. Kfar Sava	6	7	19	37	55	25
Hap. Haifa	3	11	18	23	71	20

sham Zuhbi, who came on only a few minutes earlier as a substitute, headed home the equalizer in the 67th minute.

Hap. Beersheba 1, Bnei Yehuda 3

Betar Jerusalem is winning the battle for third place. It gained a three-point advantage with a superb comeback victory in Beersheba, which had led its opponents on goal difference before the start of play.

It was a game of two halves, however. In the first, Beersheba dominated throughout and an early strike by Daniel Skenei in the 11th minute put them ahead.

But things changed completely in the second half as first Vladimir Greshnev equalized from the penalty spot after a foul on Shmuelik Levy in the area.

Yakov Schwartz made it 2-1 six minutes later and then Beersheba was reduced to 10 when Victor Moroz was sent off for a blatant foul on Levy.

Ronen Haruzi sealed the visitors' victory with a superb strike nine minutes from time.

Ironi Ashdod 2, Hap. Petach Tikva 0

The Ashdodis gained valuable points to stay clear of the relegation playoffs with this win over Petach Tikva.

Jan Talasnikov with a goal in the 18th minute and then Moti Iwanin in the 90th gave the hosts the three points they so desperately need.

Mac. Tel Aviv 3, Mac. Herzliya 0

The Petach Tikva revival continues.

An Asai Ben-Shimon hat-trick saw the hosts to safety in this mid-table clash in a less-than-thrilling match in which Herzliya failed to make any impression.

SECOND DIVISION

Hap. Ashdod 0 Mac. Jaffa 0
Dafni el-Carmel 0 Shimon TA 0
Mac. Acre 0 Hap. Ashdod 0
Bnei Yehuda 2 Hap. Ashdod 0
Rishon LeZion 1 Nees Ziona 0
Mac. Yavne 2 Hap. Bet Yam 0
Kfar Sava 5 Hap. Ashdod 0
Hap. Ashdod 1 Bnei Yehuda 1

After 24 rounds

	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Hap. Beersheba	10	5	3	43	14	31
Hap. Beersheba	13	3	8	29	24	40
Bnei Yehuda	10	7	7	34	28	37
Shimon TA	10	8	6	29	27	36
Bnei Yehuda	7	12	5	25	23	33
Hap. Beers						

Vilk threatens to quit if Hefetz gets inspector-general post

JERUSALEM Police chief Yehuda Vilk has threatened to resign if, as expected, Central District police commander Assaf Hefetz is chosen as the next police inspector-general.

Police Ministry sources said last night that Police Minister Moshe Shahal is likely to announce his choice for replacing outgoing inspector-general Rafi Peled as early as today.

One ministry source said that Shahal has already chosen Hefetz to be the new inspector-general.

Shahal is slated to meet today with Hefetz, Vilk and Tel Aviv District police commander Gabi Last. Shahal is also expected to meet today with Prime Minister Rabin to report on his choice for inspector-general. Both Rabin and the cabinet must approve the appointment.

On Friday, Shahal met in Haifa with 14

BILL HUTMAN and RAINE MARCUS

senior police officers to discuss Peled's replacement. Vilk told Shahal that he would resign if Hefetz gets the job. Police sources said that Hefetz has also threatened to resign if he is not nominated. However, Hefetz did not repeat this threat at his Friday meeting with Shahal, ministry sources said.

Sources said the feud between Vilk and Hefetz dates back 10 years to when Vilk, a lawyer, prosecuted Hefetz in disciplinary proceedings. Hefetz was accused of leaking privileged information to reporters.

Last year, Hefetz, in his fourth year as central district commander, was also in the running for the post, but Shahal preferred Peled.

Ministry sources said Shahal had chosen Hefetz this time around because he can not afford

unnecessary shocks within the force, and Hefetz, who also acts as deputy-inspector-general, is highly experienced in matters of internal security.

Hefetz, 49, founded and commanded the elite terror unit, headed the Tel Aviv central detective unit, was national headquarters' deputy special operations officer and headed the Coastal Plain sub-district.

In 1978 he headed a squad sent to rescue a busload of Egged employees ambushed by terrorists.

If Hefetz becomes the next inspector-general, Shahal still has to make a final decision on who will replace him as commander of the Central District. The district is considered a sensitive area since it borders on the Green Line and is susceptible to terror attacks because of its vicinity to Arab villages.

Labor raises stakes in Mapam to join its H

MICHAEL YUDELMAN

LABOR upped its offers to Mapam this weekend in a final bid to persuade the party to leave Meretz and join a Labor list for next month's Histadrut elections.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin is expected to appear at Mapam's convention this afternoon in a last-ditch effort to persuade Mapam to leave Meretz — running for the Histadrut elections in a list headed by MK Haim Ramon — and join Labor in the elections.

Rabin's final decision will be made this morning, after meeting with Mapam Chairman Haim Erez, and will depend on the prime minister's agenda and the tendency in Mapam's leadership, senior Labor sources said yesterday.

Labor Secretary-General Nissim Zivli said yesterday that "Ramon is stabbing Rabin in the back. What is at stake here is not the Histadrut but the shattering of the whole (Labor) party and its democratic structure. That's what we're up against and the sooner Rabin realizes this, the sooner he can do something about it."

Both Labor and Meretz leaders have been intensively wooing Mapam, whose convention delegates meet today to make a decision that will determine the party's future. Labor and Mapam leaders met over the weekend and ham-

pered out a joint agreement for running together, ensuring Mapam a series of benefits including considerable sums of money.

The agreement, which will be presented to Mapam's convention members at the meeting, more than doubles Mapam's power in the Histadrut by giving it one member for every five on Labor list, from the third slot onward.

Mapam had wanted slot number two, but accepted without protest when Histadrut Secretary General Haim Haberfeld insisted that place was reserved for a woman, in this case, Na'ama Secretary-General Ofra Friedman.

Mapam's financial allocation will increase based on the increase of its members in the Histadrut. It is expected to receive some NIS 2 million a year, according to the agreement.

The agreement also specifies that Labor and Mapam will merge a joint program for the election platform, including timetable for implementing forms; a joint formula for a health insurance bill; a reform of the pension system; and a reform in the structure of the labor councils, focusing on establishing councils in Arab towns and villages based on the same criteria as



Absorption Minister Yair Tshaban consoles the family of Daga Perda of Yavne, one of the victims of the suicide bombing attack in Hadera last week. Thousands attended his funeral Friday. (Yitzhak Elthar/Scoop 80)

Gov't pharmacists end strike

JUDY SIEGEL

SOME 130 government pharmacists ended a four-day strike on Friday under threats of restraining orders from the Tel Aviv District Court.

However, 1,070 pharmacists who work at Kupat Holim Clalit hospitals and community clinics will continue their strike today, at least until 2 p.m. union meeting decides whether they should also return to work.

Health Ministry labor relations official Harold Bar asked the judges for restraining orders against the government pharmacists, arguing the strike had not been approved by the Histadrut. The union protesting the employers' failure to negotiate a new wage contract replaced the one which expired 18 months ago.

The strike has so far forced the postponement of hundreds of operations and thousands of clinic visits and reduced the supply of medications in hospital and clinic warehouses.

The court persuaded the government workers to return to work immediately without actually issuing the restraining orders, as it struck the two sides to negotiate over the next 10 days, after they will report back to him. Kupat Holim pharmacists, however, they must discuss the situation before deciding whether to return to work.

Union head Dvora Arad said she was hopeful that Kupat Holim pharmacists would also return to work after today's meeting. If not, health fund will continue its temporary policy of allowing ment purchase prescription drugs in private pharmacies after 1 "stamps" in clinics.

Investigators still tightlipped on 'Yediot Ahronot' wiretapping

RAINE MARCUS

RAFI Friedan and Ya'acov Tsur, the two private investigators suspected of eavesdropping on phones of senior Yediot Ahronot employees and others, are still refusing to cooperate with police despite offers of immunity.

Friedan, manager of the Agam investigations company who was sentenced to community service recently for similar offenses, is still denying that his actions were illegal.

By law someone can tape his own conversations with a second party but cannot record conversations between second and third parties.

Eavesdropping on cellular phone calls is also a legal gray area, with scanners picking up such conversations. However, a special machine is needed to tune into specific cellular phones.

Agam company owner Tsur denies all knowledge of bugging cellular phones, faxes and phones, maintaining that his job is to manage investigations.

Friedan is known in the private investigations community as a specialist in eavesdropping, and although police said they have seized a machine for tuning into cellular phones, other sources

said that the investigator's another, more sophisticated machine.

Police are still no wiser who ordered the tapping. Aviv Mayor Ronni Liron, those of the Likud center, senior Yediot employees and others, are press that they will discover who the investigators to eavesdrop.

Offenders found guilty of bugging may be sentenced to a maximum sentence of a imprisonment, while the dering eavesdropping a face a maximum three-year sentence.

Hints that the eavesdropping was ordered by rival media within Yediot were also firm, but sources said it a possibility, together with outside party paying for on goings-on at the daily paper and at other institutions.

The case surfaced when Yediot employee planned to police that her was tapped. Police dis Benny Hayoun replacer settes in a vehicle near he liya home.

Following a three-day in custody, Hayoun was under house arrest Friday his lawyer David Yiftachel a judge that his client a mere employee whose was to replace cassettes cles located near su homes, and did not know acting illegally.

Danny Patri, a trainee gator suspected of 1 phones, was also placed house arrest Friday, after operated with police.

Eilat man stabbed to death in fight over mooring for boat

THIRTY-NINE-YEAR-OLD Shalom Biton of Eilat was stabbed to death and his cousin was wounded in a dispute over a mooring place for Biton's boat early yesterday morning.

Police learned of the incident after they received a call from Josephthal Hospital about two stabbing victims. An investigation revealed that a fight had erupted between Biton and a young man over who had the right to a mooring place in the marina.

During the fight, the young man pulled a knife and stabbed Biton in the stomach and also stabbed

his cousin, Avraham Avital, of Jerusalem. Biton was operated on but died of his wound on the operating table at 3 a.m. yesterday morning. Avital was reported in good to moderate condition.

Police were still searching for the assailant, whose identity is known to them.

In Beersheba, a policeman was stabbed in the testicles and a nightclub security guard was also stabbed during a brawl that erupted outside the Forum club in the town's industrial area early yesterday morning. Police are still seeking the assailant.

The incident occurred at about 2:30 a.m. when a young man tried to enter the club. Security guard Avraham Weltman, 42, found a penknife on him and tried to take it away from him. A fight ensued during which Weltman was lightly stabbed in the chest.

Police were called to the scene and officer Sami Mizrahi tried to handcuff the man, but was stabbed by him in the testicles. He was taken to Soroka Hospital, where he received six stitches, and was later released.

Meanwhile, Southern District police filed an indictment Friday

against Alexander Zilnick, accused of stabbing to death Eli Vaknin, 27, during a brawl March 25 over the amount of noise Zilnick and his friends were making.

"According to the indictment, Zilnick pulled a knife out of his belt and stabbed Vaknin during the fight. Police also asked the Beersheba District Court to extend Zilnick's remand until the completion of legal proceedings against him. The hearing on the police request will be held next Sunday, and Zilnick will remain in custody until then. (Irm)

Sarid issues order banning gas leaks from Kiryat Ata gas farm

ENVIRONMENT Minister Yossi Sarid ordered his ministry's legal department to issue a special order on Friday forbidding any gas leaks into the atmosphere during work at the Kiryat Ata gas farm, where a fire broke out last week. Investigators determined that

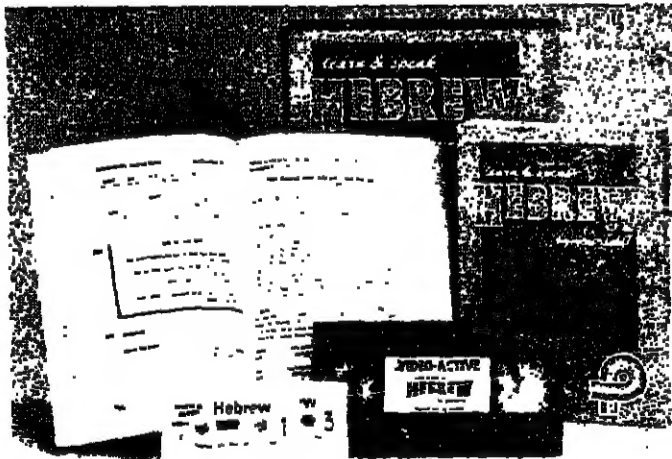
the fire was caused by an electrical spark from a forklift at the site. The spark ignited gas that had leaked into the air during the filling of a cooking gas tank.

At an emergency meeting Sarid called immediately following the fire, the minister condemned the fact that the gas farm was operating without a business license, saying "it can't be that the state is without recourse when a body is operating outside the law."

The meeting was attended by Haifa fire chief Moshe Vardi, Kiryat Ata Mayor David Re'em, the head of the Fuel Authority, David Botzer, and representatives of the Energy and Environment Ministry.

Sarid said that in the framework of the special order, every issue under his ministry's auspices would be checked. (Irm)

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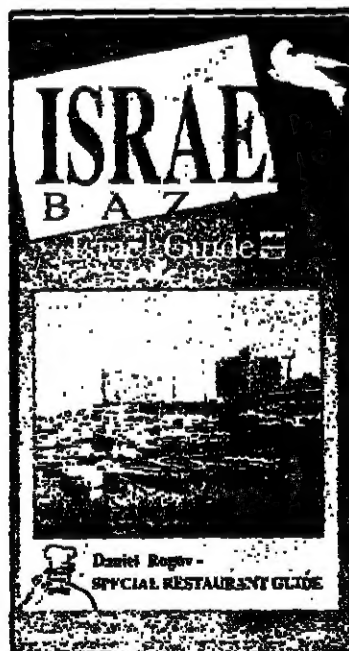
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